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SPEECHES  
BY  
THE EARL OF WILLINGDON

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VOL. II

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From 29th June 1934 to 18th April 1936



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VOLUME II.

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# SPEECHES BY THE EARL OF WILLINGDON

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1934

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## PRESENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH.

His Excellency the Viceroy received the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh on 29th June and in reply said :—

29th June  
1934.

*My Lord Provost and Members of the Edinburgh Corporation,—*Let me at once most gratefully tender you my thanks, my Lord Provost and members of the Corporation of Edinburgh, for the high honour which you have conferred upon me to-day and for the assurance which it conveys that such humble services as it has been given me to render to my sovereign and to the British Empire have been so generously recorded and recognised in the capital city of Scotland.

Great as is my gratification at so signal a reward, I assure you that it is doubly gratifying to me that you have thought well to confer the same honour upon my wife, for merits in which I can claim no part, and of which I am therefore free to testify that in her case your judgment has been amply justified. For not only has the passage of the years increasingly brought home to me how little useful work I could have done without her by my side to help, advise and encourage, to share with me all the joys and sorrows, all the successes and disappointments, of a long and varied public life, but also no one knows better than I the full tale of her labours to mitigate distress and suffering and to bring happiness and comfort into the life of the people of each country to which our duties have called us.

*Presentation of the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh.*

Yesterday we received another great honour, and I may the more fitly acknowledge it on this occasion because I know how close have always been the ties that have bound together Edinburgh and her Towns College. We received the degree of honorary doctorates in laws of the University of Edinburgh, and I regard it as a particularly happy circumstance that it was at the hands of a Principal and Vice-Chancellor who adds to his other claims to eminence a distinguished record of service in India, for I recollect that when I was Governor of Bombay Sir Thomas Holland was a Member of the Governor-General's Council. This honour we value not least because it entitled us henceforth, admitted into your inner family circle, to share familiarly the personal and intimate pride which you justly take in what I may truly call not only a great national but a great imperial institution. For I know well that Scotland has not only sent out of her best from the gates of this university to the uttermost parts of the earth, but has hospitably received within them great numbers from overseas, attracted by her traditions and the renown of her schools. It was only last year that the University celebrated, under the auspices of a Chancellor of all men best qualified to pronounce the spell, the 350th year of what I must call her youth : and that great occasion was remembered not only in Edinburgh itself, but by the sons and daughters who claim her as their Alma Mater in more cities than I can count within the Empire and beyond.

When first we received your invitation, my Lord Provost, and that of the Senatus of the University, I must confess that we asked ourselves why we, mere Englishmen and mere Englishwomen, should have been deemed worthy of these special marks of your approval of our work. We came to the conclusion that you were not less well aware than I—and it has always been very present to my

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*Presentation of the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh.*

mind—of my close association with Scotsmen in all the responsibilities of Government that have been entrusted to me, and of how much I owe to Scotsmen for loyal help and advice during long years of service overseas. If, indeed, more was in your minds, let me at any rate take this opportunity of giving my very willing testimony to my own indebtedness.

In the early days of my public life, when I was a youthful member of Parliament, I was fortunate in the friendship of that brilliant statesman and scholar, the late Lord Rosebery. That City of Edinburgh will, I know, never forget its generous friend and neighbour, nor shall I forget the inspiration and encouragement he gave me in my young days. I was a member of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons under the leadership of another Scot. Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and had the opportunity of learning from him many lessons of political wisdom and sagacity. I remember well, when first I went to India as Governor of Bombay, having never before been to India in my life, my first two private secretaries were Scotsmen and I owed much to their guidance and advice during the first years of my connection with that country. When I returned to take up my post as Viceroy three years ago, the same two officers had risen to high positions under the Government of India and gave me once more most loyal assistance in carrying out my duties during those difficult years. And there were many others, throughout the length and breadth of India, whose loyalty, ability and devotion to duty I remember with gratitude and admiration. It would, I am confident, be with the approval of them all that I should make honourable mention on this occasion of the name of a distinguished son of Edinburgh, His Excellency Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal, whose wisdom and courage in administering the affairs

*Presentation of the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh.*

of that great Presidency I have had the best reasons to appreciate.

Again, when I went to Canada as Governor-General, the Prime Minister was a man of Scottish descent, my old friend the Right Hon'ble Mackenzie King, and two members of his Cabinet had left Scotland years before as emigrants, had prospered and were holding two of the highest positions under the Crown in Canada.

And today, in this city of Edinburgh and on an occasion for me so memorable, it gives me a peculiar pleasure not only to acknowledge my own debt for their counsel and support in times of doubt and difficulty, but to express more generally, after many years of life and travel in many parts of the Empire, my admiration of the men and women of the Scottish race whose courage, initiative and tenacity have done so much to build up its fortunes in the past and are so great a present influence on all the manifold activities of administration, public life and private enterprise.

My experience of the Scot abroad has naturally tempted me to ask myself what exactly are the qualities, and whence does he get them, which have so conspicuously made him a pioneer and a pillar of empire ; that spirit which sends him across the waste of seas with an undying regret for the " lone shielding in the misty island " ; which combines a passion for metaphysics with the shrewdest judgment of practical things ; which has made legendary alike his devotion to a falling cause and his unerring instinct for a rising market. It is a profoundly interesting enquiry but, as I am aware, my Lord Provost, not without its perils. I shall say only this. I have seen your beautiful, gray city in all its matchless atmosphere of unbroken tradition and unforgotten history ; I have seen something of the vigorous activity of a modern capital, in which nevertheless the wraiths of Scott and

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Burns and Stevenson would be still at home, and Sir James Barrie would meet with kindred spirits today ; and of a university which draws from its great names of the past new inspiration for the present and the future. I have looked both on the ramparts of your ancient citadel and on the most beautiful and impressive memorial of the late war that in many journeyings I have ever seen. I feel that now I understand better the Scottish character and the things that have built it up.

And I think that there was never a time in our common history in which there was greater need and scope for its exertion. For I am one of those who believe that, in the troubled times we live in, the strengthening of the bonds of empire, and closer co-operation between all its parts will be not only our own best hope but a great influence for the promotion of peace and amity among all nations.

I sometimes hear doubts expressed whether this zeal and enthusiasm for the Empire, which I think should inspire each one of us, is as strong as once it was, and whether the spirit of adventure has not yielded to the amenities of life at home. Indeed, I have myself often been asked by my friends how it is that I can endure so many years of exile. My answer is that there is no question of exile when there is duty to perform, work to do and all the opportunities of life, within the British Empire. Speaking for my wife and myself, I can truly say that while there must needs be some sacrifice in serving far from home, we have never for one moment regretted the years that we have spent among our fellow-citizens of Empire overseas. Life has been full of interest and occupation ; we have received a warm welcome wherever we have gone ; we have formed many tried and trusted friendships, and we have always found a very happy home. And what I have said applies very

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specially to our present life in India, where we have now spent nearly fifteen years. There, too, we are happy in the knowledge that we have gained many valued friendships among the Princes and people of India ; happy, too, in the certain assurance, after all these years of experience, that our temporary home is in a country whose people are intensely loyal to the British Crown.

It would not be proper for me to say anything to-day on the important political questions now being examined, but this much I may be allowed to say about India, the administration of which has been for the past three years under my special care.

We often hear of the ‘ unchanging East ’ but I can assure my countrymen, with some experience, that India at all events is changing very fast, and the responsibility for that change is mainly due to the fact that we British have for over 100 years been working to develop in the minds and character of Indians a spirit of responsibility which will in due course fit them to undertake the full powers of administration of their own affairs. That has been and is our purpose confirmed and assured to Indians by the great proclamation of Queen Victoria in 1858 and later by His Majesty’s Government in 1917. I fully realise the doubts and difficulties in the minds of many who, while anxious as we all are to act generously and fairly by India, are uneasy as to the scope of advance through their want of practical knowledge of conditions in that country. May I urge that, owing to these rapid changes to which I have referred, special consideration should be given to the views and opinions of those who have had most recent experience of life there, and of those who are doing their Empire service there at the present time.

I hope that my countrymen will always remember that the population of India exceeds three hundred and

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

fifty millions. In so vast a number there must be, as in every other country, a certain number of misguided or evilly disposed people whose desire is to subvert or injure the Government constituted by law. But the Princes and people of India are loyal to the British Crown. They are not unmindful of past benefits ; they are proud of their own share in upholding the fortunes of the Empire ; and their aspiration is to move forward until they arrive at a position of full partnership in working out the destinies of Empire. They ask that their aspirations may, at this juncture, be dealt with by you all in a spirit of real sympathy and friendship. If this is done as I am sure it will be I am confident that India will increasingly in the future prove to be, as she has been in the past, a source of strength and security to our great commonwealth of nations.

And when we return in a few weeks' time to resume our duties in that wonderful country, we shall go, heartened and encouraged by this evidence of Scottish approval of our endeavours which you have so generously given us, proud to regard ourselves as burgesses of the city of Edinburgh, and determined that we shall not forfeit the confidence reposed in us by you, my Lord Provost, by the Corporation of your city and by the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh.

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**HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO THE COMBINED LEGISLATURES.**

His Excellency the Viceroy attended in State the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly on the morning of the 29th August 1934 and addressed the Members of both Houses of the Indian Legislature as follows :—

*Gentlemen,—In greeting Hon'ble Members this morning after my short holiday, I need hardly tell you*

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

how delighted I am to be amongst you once again, to find you still engaged in your strenuous labours on behalf of India, and to take this opportunity of thanking you all for the assistance you have given to my Government during the past four years in passing into law the many very important measures that have been brought before you during the period of the life of this Parliament which will shortly be coming to a close.

In a message communicated to you on the 6th March 1933, I announced my decision to extend the duration of the existing Assembly for such period as might seem expedient in the light of the conditions prevailing when the time came actually to effect the extension, and on the 22nd December 1933 I announced an extension up to the 31st December 1934. The question whether the duration of the Assembly should be further extended beyond that date required and received my anxious consideration, and I finally reached the conclusion, the propriety of which has, I am glad to believe, been very generally recognised, that in all the circumstances of the case no further extension should be granted.

I am sure that you would wish, and here I can speak with all sincerity on behalf of my Hon'ble Colleagues, that I should express to the two Presidents my grateful thanks for the fairness and judgment with which they have guided the discussions in both Chambers and have secured the trust and confidence of every Hon'ble Member.

It is my custom on this occasion to give a general survey of the work done during the past year and of the economic and political condition of our country at the present time, and further to tell you as far as I can the outlook for the future.

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In the sphere of Foreign Affairs I am glad to state that India's relations with her neighbours continue to be uniformly satisfactory. On the frontier between Burma and China incidents occurred last spring threatening a disturbance of the peace among the partially administered tribes, which in that area separate the Province of Burma from the Chinese Province of Yunnán. The international frontier in that area has never been demarcated and this circumstance coupled with the fact that there are no maps which have been accepted by both Governments as accurate, encouraged certain irresponsible persons to engage in hostile activities against the Burma Military Police, although the latter had scrupulously refrained from penetrating beyond the line claimed by the Chinese Government. That force effectively demonstrated their ability to deal with these marauders and no operations have been necessary during the last few weeks. Efforts are being made by His Majesty's Representative in China to establish, in agreement with the Chinese Government, certain principles upon which it will be possible to demarcate the international frontier and thus to find a solution for a long-standing disagreement. Events in Chinese Turkestan have caused my Government some anxiety, since as the result of a serious revolt against Chinese authority in Káshgar and the neighbourhood, security of life and property was for some time gravely endangered. I regret to say that some loss of life and property was caused to peaceful Indian traders in spite of the unremitting efforts of His Majesty's Consul-General to secure their protection. On one occasion His Majesty's Consulate at Káshgar was attacked by Tungán\* rebels, and it was only the gallant defence offered by the British and Indian personnel which saved the Consulate from

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\*Pronounced "Toonga(r)n".

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more than a few casualties. The Chinese Government have expressed their deep regret for this occurrence and have also officially acknowledged the correctness of the Consul-General's attitude of strict neutrality towards the various factions which have from time to time secured control over this area. The latest news received is much more reassuring in that the Chinese forces together with a Pacification Commissioner entrusted with the task of restoring law and order have now reached Káshgar and are engaged in re-establishing Chinese authority. Some embarrassment has also been caused by the influx of refugees from Russia and from Chinese Turkestan who were able to enter India *via* Gilgit before they could be intercepted. These persons were for the most part completely destitute and were frequently accompanied by women and children, whose re-expulsion across the inhospitable mountains of Central Asia was repugnant to humanitarian principles. It is however obvious that the comparative security of conditions in India might encourage this influx to a dangerous extent and steps are therefore being taken to check it at the frontier, and it is also hoped to arrange for the disposal of a number of the refugees already in India by despatching them to other parts of the world.

Our neighbourly relations with Afghanistan have not been threatened by any untoward incidents on the frontier in recent months and it is hoped to secure increased trade between the two countries as the result of the recent visit of a Trade Delegation to Kabul in April last. This Delegation consisted of Mr. W. W. Nind as Leader and Lala Shri Ram, Merchant of Delhi, and Khan Bahadur Syed Maratib Ali of Lahore as Members, and was sent to Afghanistan to examine, in consultation with informed opinion in that country, the directions in which it might

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be possible to foster and expand the mutual trade between India and Afghanistan. The report submitted by this Delegation is still under consideration, but it is gratifying to observe the interest taken by Indian merchants and traders in the Commercial Exhibition which is now taking place in that city.

The North-West Frontier has remained uniformly peaceful during the last eight months except for the various unimportant disputes between sections of the tribes and a few small encounters between Government forces and hostile individuals, which have always been a feature of frontier administration. I need not say that cordial relations, as ever, continue to be maintained with our ancient Ally, the Kingdom of Nepal. As a fitting culmination of the long-standing friendship that we have enjoyed with that country, His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to raise the status of the British Envoy to that of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Nepalese Court, and also to receive a Minister of corresponding rank from the Kingdom of Nepal at the Court of St. James in London.

A great figure on the stage of Asia passed away with the death of His Holiness the Dalái Lama of Tibet on December 17th, 1933. The late Dalái Lama, the thirteenth of his line, had always remained on terms of amity with my Government and the Regent who has been appointed in his place pending the reincarnation of the Dalái Lama continues to act in the spirit of the Ruler of Tibet.

Lastly I am glad to take this opportunity of acknowledging the keen and effective interest which Hon'ble Members have always taken in the welfare of Indian traders and settlers in foreign countries. There has been more than one case recently in which a foreign

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country has attempted to enforce, particularly in its colonies, what appeared to us to be unwarranted restrictions upon such Indian traders, who have by their enterprise and commercial ability contributed largely to the wealth and prosperity of the place concerned. My Government have in every case protested vigorously through His Majesty's Government against such proceedings and, if, as has happened in more than one case, their protests have been successful, this is very largely due to the hearty support they have received from Indian public opinion as represented by the Hon'ble Members of this House.

In connection with external commercial relations I would recall to your minds that when I last addressed you I mentioned the circumstances leading to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905 and the passing of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933. Applications for assistance under the Act were received from a number of small Indian Industries. These were carefully examined, but eventually Government decided that it would be undesirable to use the Act, since such a step would have prejudiced the negotiations for a commercial agreement with Japan which had then started. At the same time the needs of these industries were met, where necessary, in another manner. This was by the imposition of minimum specific duties on the articles concerned. The imposition of these duties was secured by *ad hoc* legislation,—the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1934,—and in fixing the level of these duties, which were applicable to the imports from all foreign countries, due consideration was given to the necessity of adequately safeguarding the Indian industry concerned, while avoiding, as far as possible, any increase in the *ad valorem* incidence of the duties on goods the competi-

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tion from which did not constitute a danger to Indian industries.

The question of the grant of substantive protection to the Cotton Textile Industry in India, which was the subject of a Tariff Board enquiry in 1932, came up for your consideration in the last Delhi Sessions. I need not refer to the details of the legislative measure with which you were then concerned except to point out that for the second time statutory effect has been given to a rapprochement between the representatives of an Indian and a British Industry. My Government and I attach the highest importance to the creation of closer ties between the industrialists in India and in the United Kingdom and, consonant with the interests of the country as a whole, we shall always be prepared to consider sympathetically any agreement intended to promote the mutual interests of the parties concerned.

In accordance with the undertaking given when the Ottawa Trade Agreement was under consideration, an exhaustive report of the first year's working of the scheme of mutual preferences has been prepared and is now in your hands. I understand that this report is now under consideration by Committees of both Houses of the Legislature, and I shall not therefore comment further upon it.

When the Indian Delegation led by Sir Atul Chatterjee was at Ottawa certain tentative approaches were made by representatives of other countries within the Commonwealth with a view to the conclusion of further trade agreements. The Irish Free State has followed up their preliminary proposals and formal negotiations between India and the Free State were initiated in May last. These negotiations, at which Sir B. N. Mitra

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and Sir George Rainy represented India, have not yet been concluded.

During the course of my address to you in August last year I made a brief reference to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905, and the negotiations for a fresh Commercial Agreement with Japan. As you are aware, these negotiations commenced in Simla on the 23rd September 1933, and after lengthy discussions agreement was reached between the Indian and the Japanese Delegations in January 1934. The agreement of views thus reached was embodied in a Convention and Protocol, the agreed drafts of which were initialled by the two delegations on the 19th April 1934 and finally signed, on behalf of India and Japan, in London on the 12th July 1934.

The Convention, and with it the Protocol, are to come into force immediately after the exchange of ratifications and will remain in force until the 31st March 1937. The provisions in the Protocol relating to the restriction of the imports of cotton piece-goods from Japan have, however, been given effect to with effect from the 8th January 1934, from which date the Government of India reduced the import duty on Japanese cotton piece-goods to the level of that provided for in the Agreement.

The Agreement, while ensuring the continuance of the long-established trade connections between the two countries on a basis satisfactory to both, safeguards also the legitimate interests of the Cotton Textile Industry in India and at the same time secures a stable market for a substantial portion of the exportable surplus of raw cotton produced in India. This, at a time of acute agricultural distress, should prove invaluable to the cotton growers in India who have been so seriously affected by the world reparation.

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Hon'ble Members will remember that in 1930 the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, sanctioned a scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in certain foreign countries with a view to promote the export trade of India with those countries. In addition to the existing appointment of Indian Trade Commissioner, London, the scheme provided for six appointments, one each at Hamburg, Milan, New York, Alexandria, Durban and Mombasa. The office at Hamburg was opened in March 1931 and an officer for the Milan post was selected on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. Further progress with the scheme was held in abeyance on grounds of financial stringency, the officer selected for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan being retained in the Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Department for a period of training. Among plans for the encouragement of the economic development of the country my Government have, however, now decided to resume the programme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries. As a first step in that direction, it has been decided to open the office of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Italy as soon as possible, and with this object Mr. M. R. Ahuja, who was selected for the post in 1931, has been sent to London for a short period of training in the Trade Department of the High Commissioner's Office before taking charge of his new appointment in Italy. The question of the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners at other places will receive the early consideration of the Government of India.

Whilst still on the subject of affairs which involve contact with the outer world, there are two further matters of interest relating to Indians overseas to which I wish

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briefly to allude. I refer, in the first place, to the Report of the Colonisation Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of the Union of South Africa, which was published both in South Africa and in this country early in July. The Government have been closely studying the reactions of public opinion in this country to the recommendations of the Committee. They have also ascertained the views on the Report of the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature. They hope to be able, shortly, to address the Government of the Union of South Africa on this matter. In formulating their conclusions it will be their endeavour to serve the best interests of the Indian community in South Africa.

The second event, to which Hon'ble Members will expect some reference, is the situation which has arisen in Zanzibar as the result of recent legislation. My Government had no previous intimation that such legislation was contemplated, and the time available between its introduction and enactment was inadequate for the effects of the various decrees on Indian interests in Zanzibar to be adequately studied and represented. Therefore early this month we deputed an officer to Zanzibar to make investigations. On receipt of his report the Government of India will consider what further action they should take. Hon'ble Members may be satisfied that in this, as in other matters concerning the legitimate interests of Indian communities overseas, the Government of India will strive their utmost to uphold them.

I now wish to recall to your mind the part that the Legislature has played in the sphere of Labour in continuing to participate in the policy which I and my Government have set before us of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour. In 1933 you

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passed an important measure which improved the benefits received by workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In the course of this session a still more important advance has been registered by the new Factories Bill, the most important feature of which was the reduction in the hours of work in factories which work throughout the year from 60 to 54. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the helpful attitude of those who represent employers' interests towards this great amelioration in the condition of workers in organised industries. On the Industries side this session has to its credit the very serviceable Petroleum Bill. You have now left to the Executive Government the important task of framing suitable rules under these two Acts. The helpful and enlightened spirit which has inspired the Legislature in passing them will, I have no doubt, beneficially affect their detailed administration.

During the current session you have passed a measure designed to secure conditions of greater safety for an important section of the manual workers of this country. I refer to the Indian Dock Labourers Bill which, when it becomes law, will give effect in British India to the International Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships. The Bill empowers the Government of India to make regulations for the safety of such workers and to provide, through a system of proper inspection, for the enforcement of those regulations in accordance with standards internationally accepted and embodied in the International Convention, thus filling a gap in India's Labour legislation caused by the non-existence of any regulations which could be said to provide adequately for the safety of dock workers while engaged in their admittedly hazardous occupation. The Act which has now been

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placed on the Statute Book is still another earnest of India's desire to conform to the highest standards in her treatment of Labour.

Our progress in matters connected with industries has not been confined to legislation. At the Sixth Industries Conference which met shortly before this session began my Government's proposals for the creation of a Central Bureau from which industrialists, particularly those interested in developing small industries, will be able to obtain such information and expert assistance as my Government in co-operation with the Governments of the Provinces can place at their disposal met with the unanimous support of the delegates present. I hope to see this organisation come into being in the course of the next few months and, though it may seem that the beginning which is being made is a small one, I have great confidence that we are establishing an institution which will prove of real value in promoting the industrial development of this country. The Conference also made recommendations regarding the principles on which the grants my Government is making to assist the hand-loom-weaving and sericultural industries should be utilised. Those recommendations have been accepted in their entirety.

In the field of Civil Aviation there have recently been important developments. As our ground organisation has become inadequate, it has been decided to inaugurate a programme of development from loan funds. Accordingly we hope to equip the Karachi-Rangoon route and the Karachi-Madras route up to modern standards within the next few years, and we are prepared also to organise on similar lines the Calcutta-Bombay and the Karachi-Lahore routes, if these should be opened up shortly,—as it is

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much to be hoped they will be. You have just passed an Act—the Indian Aircraft Act of 1934—which will enable the Civil Aviation Directorate to control and encourage effectively this expanding activity.

I am also glad to announce that we expect to see a similar development in broadcasting in the near future. My Government have decided to proceed as quickly as possible with the erection of a large transmitting station in Delhi, which will broadcast entertainment in Urdu and English. This, we hope, will prove to be only the first step towards the establishment of a complete system of broadcasting covering the whole of India, under which the Provinces will have the benefit of an expression of their own culture in their own literary languages, with an added element of English programme matter.

Both Chambers of the Legislature adopted a resolution last session which will prolong the life of the Road Development Account. I trust this step will be of material assistance to the Provinces in the development of their road systems.

I take this opportunity to refer to a matter which is of particular interest to the commercial public. It has been decided to undertake a revision of the existing company and insurance laws in India at an early date. The law relating to companies is that contained in the Indian Companies Act, 1913. This Act is based on the English Companies Act, 1908, which has since been revised and replaced by the Companies Act of 1929. Certain proposals for the amendment of the existing legislation in India have been brought to the notice of the Government of India from time to time by Local Governments, commercial bodies and individuals, but it has always been thought more desirable to avoid piecemeal

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legislation and to await a suitable opportunity when a thorough overhaul of the Act could be undertaken. The need for early revision of the law has been more keenly felt recently as a result of the growing industrialisation of India and in particular, as is already known to you, there has of late been much criticism of the managing agency system. In the sphere of insurance law also the need for revised legislation is fully established. The rapid development of insurance business in the country during the past few years, not only in respect of the number of new companies formed but also in respect of the forms of insurance activities other than life, e.g., fire, marine, motor and employers' liability insurance, has created new circumstances in which the existing law has been found to be inadequate. The Government of India have therefore arrived at the conclusion that both company and insurance law should be revised as soon as possible, and as an initial step it has been decided to appoint Mr. S. C. Sen, Solicitor, as an officer on Special Duty in the Department of Commerce of the Government of India to make a preliminary examination of the various proposals for amendment received from time to time and to indicate broadly the lines on which revised legislation should be undertaken.

To turn to the wide field of Agriculture, which is still to the masses of India their main source of livelihood and is therefore one of the primary concerns of Government. Hon'ble Members must be aware that the Provincial Economic Conference, which my Government had convened last April, reviewed the position of the agriculturist from the standpoint of rural credit as well as agricultural marketing and production. One of the conclusions reached by the Government of India, after consideration of the proceedings of the Conference, was that all possible

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steps should be taken to ascertain how far agricultural production in India was being scientifically co-ordinated and whether any action was desirable or feasible to make such co-ordination more efficient and more effective. My Government accordingly convened, with the ready co-operation of Local Governments, which I take this opportunity to acknowledge, a Conference of Provincial Directors of Agriculture, Land Revenue officers and non-official representatives from the various Provinces last June. This Conference reviewed exhaustively the position of all the principal crops in India.

After a full consideration of all the relevant factors the Conference came to the satisfactory conclusion that crop planning in India had not proceeded on unscientific and haphazard lines, but had been well planned and had, on the whole, achieved its aim of helping the ryot to use his land to the best purpose. But in the prevailing welter of economic uncertainty the Conference, if I may say so, wisely held that machinery should be provided for the systematic and continuous study of problems relating to the cultivation of India's more important crops such as wheat and rice. To this end it recommended the establishment of appropriate *ad hoc* Committees. Hon'ble Members will doubtless be glad to know that this recommendation has been accepted by my Government. It is hoped that, by this means, periodical stock-taking of the position of our principal crops and of their prospects in the world's markets will be greatly facilitated. The value of continuous study and periodical review in this respect cannot be over-estimated. Adjustment of the agricultural activity of a country to changing conditions of demand is necessary for the prosperity of the agriculturist. Difficulties of such adjustment in a country of the size of India are evident. Adaptation to changing needs of the

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market will be impossible of accomplishment without the acquisition, and maintenance up-to-date, of all relevant information.

Another problem of even greater practical importance to the agriculturist is the marketing of his produce to the best advantage. This subject was also discussed in the Provincial Economic Conference, where there was general agreement that an intensive programme to develop marketing facilities for agricultural products offered the best immediate prospect of substantial results. The matter has been under close examination since the Economic Conference concluded. With the help of the Marketing Expert who recently joined the staff of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, a programme of work has been drawn up which, it is hoped, will very shortly be initiated. Experience gained elsewhere shows that the range of marketing activities must be wide. It must, for example, include the organisation of an efficient intelligence service in external markets regarding Indian products and the requirements of consumers both abroad and in this country. An efficient marketing organisation must also ensure the grading, sorting and bulking of the main staple products and the establishment and development of regulated markets. In India the first task is the undertaking of market surveys for the purpose of ascertaining the data on which future developments can be planned. The initial step, therefore, will be to obtain and set out in detail the present system of marketing the more important commodities, such as wheat and rice, oilseeds, plantation and special crops, e.g., tobacco and fruit, as also dairy products, in which term I include livestock.

This survey will be carried out not only in each of the Provinces separately, but will also deal with inter-Provincial, inter-State and foreign trade so as to provide

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an all-India picture of existing conditions and a common basis for future progress. The report on each survey will set out, in precise technical detail, definite suggestions regarding marketing organisation with a view to improving existing conditions in the interests of producers. The work connected with the execution of these surveys will be shared between the Central and Provincial marketing staffs, but it is the intention of my Government that, at least in the initial stages, the cost should be met from Central Revenues, so that the urgent task of ascertaining the data and formulating a co-ordinated plan of marketing organisation should not be delayed by reason of the inability of one or more Provinces to meet the cost of such investigations. The question as to how the cost of the various organisations and activities resulting from these surveys should be met will be one for future consideration on the basis of the benefits expected from the plans that may be adopted.

I should like also at this stage to make a brief reference to the financial position of our Railways. This, as you are aware, has not been all that could have been desired during the past two or three years, though in comparison with most other countries throughout the world we may be said to have escaped lightly. The situation this financial year shows much better prospects. Our earnings are better by over Rs. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  crores than they were for the same period of last year. In the nature of things we may expect set-backs, but I am optimistic enough to think that these, if any, will be temporary, and that the increased prosperity of our Railways is at least an indication of a general revival of trade and commerce throughout the country.

As you are no doubt aware, I had the privilege of performing the formal opening ceremony on the 19th

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December last of the Vizagapatam Harbour. The development of the harbour has been proceeding steadily and with the improved facilities which it is the constant aim of the Administration to provide, it will, it is hoped, be possible in the not very distant future to open the harbour to vessels of much larger dimensions than can be accommodated at present. There has already been a substantial increase both in the number of steamers calling and in the quantity of cargo handled at the port and as improved facilities become available it will, it is confidently hoped, attract an ever-growing volume of traffic in the future. Vizagapatam Harbour supplies a long-felt need for a safe anchorage for ocean-going traffic on the East Coast of India between Calcutta and Madras and should assist greatly in the development of a hinterland, rich in natural resources, by providing for its produce a convenient outlet to the markets of the world.

On the two last occasions on which I have addressed you I have expressed the belief that the march of events would gradually carry the leaders of the civil disobedience movement further and further away from the sterile methods of negation and obstruction. A year ago I claimed that the events of the last few months had fully borne out that belief ; civil disobedience at that time maintained a precarious existence and there were signs that the popular judgment had already condemned it. During the whole of the last 12 months that feeling has grown and spread and finally in April last the author of this subversive movement, which was started in 1930 and renewed at the beginning of 1932, advised all Congressmen to suspend civil resistance for Swaraj as distinct from specific grievances. A little later this advice was confirmed by the Working Committee of Congress which, at the same time, adopted the constitutional policy, at one

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time regarded as wholly futile by many Congress leaders, of entering the Legislatures. I was myself away from India during the concluding stage of these events, but the policy announced by the Government of India on June 6th, 1934, had my full approval. That policy has been criticised in some quarters as half-hearted and ungenerous, but, as I said in my speech in this House in September 1932, we should be failing in our duty if we did not ensure to the best of our ability, not merely that civil disobedience was brought to an end, but that there should be no chance of reviving it. Thus though the ban on purely Congress organisations was removed, we could not take the risk of allowing freedom to those more revolutionary organisations which were distinct from Congress, though working at one time more or less in close association with its objects. Still less could we give up the special powers which had been found necessary for dealing with the movement and which had been given to Local Governments by the Acts of this Legislature or of the Provincial Legislatures. The curtain has thus fallen, I hope finally, on the civil disobedience movement and one of the objects of the policy which I indicated in September 1932 has been achieved. That happy result I do not attribute so much to the action taken by Government as to the sturdy good sense of the mass of the people of India whose representatives you are and whose opinions you reflect. They recognise that true progress cannot be secured by carrying on an unmeaning and futile struggle with constitutional authority or by revolutionary methods. There is now I think throughout the country a general recognition of the truth that the right road to progress is not through coercion or mass action ; and it is because of this that I have the confident hope that civil disobedience will not or cannot be revived. The problems before us social, economic and political, are many, but a solution can

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be found to these difficult problems if all classes of political thought in the country devote themselves to the task in a spirit of friendly co-operation.

Once again I can chronicle a further improvement in the terrorist situation in Bengal, but incidents such as the dastardly attack on His Excellency Sir John Anderson show that the terrorist organisation, though on the whole greatly weakened, is still strong in some places, and that we are not free from the danger of isolated outrages whether they take the form of attacks on Government officers or of equally cowardly attacks on persons wholly unconnected with Government with the object of obtaining funds to keep the movement alive. But that attack on Sir John Anderson, providentially wholly unsuccessful, undoubtedly had the effect of rousing public opinion against terrorism as perhaps nothing else could have done and called forth from all sides condemnation of the cult of assassination. In fact the most satisfactory feature of the last few months has been that there are distinct signs that a definite stand against terrorism would be welcomed in many quarters where in the past it might have been regarded as anti-national. The Provincial Councils of Bengal and of Assam have passed by large majorities the legislation which the Local Governments considered necessary for dealing with this evil, and you, gentlemen of the Central Legislature, have also accepted the legislation which we had to put before you to supplement the local Acts. But outside the Legislature also public opinion is strengthening, and I trust that the appeal recently issued by leaders of all shades of opinion in Bengal and the Conference which they are summoning will result in practical steps being taken to create a healthier atmosphere in Bengal and to prevent the youth of the Province from being contaminated with these

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dangerous ideas. In this they will, I know, receive all possible support from His Excellency Sir John Anderson and his Government, who recognise that legislation and police action will not by themselves eradicate this hideous evil ; public opinion alone can do that, and I am glad to see that so many of those in a position to guide that opinion in Bengal have now realised their responsibilities and have come forward openly with constructive suggestions for the protection of the youth of their Province from the insidious approaches of the terrorists by providing them with wider opportunities of useful service for their country.

Next year we shall be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and I have received and accepted an invitation from His Majesty's Government to send certain official representatives from India to join in the celebrations in London.

My Government are now in communication with Local Governments and Rulers of Indian States as to the best and most fitting manner in which this auspicious occasion should be recognised in India. The King-Emperor has been pleased to intimate that it is His Majesty's desire that celebrations should be on a local basis and that His Majesty's subjects should, wherever practicable, have the opportunity of observing the occasion near their homes. It is His Majesty's express wish also that celebrations should be as simple as possible and that all undue expenditure should be avoided. I feel sure that, when the time comes, the Princes and people of India will loyally comply with His Majesty's wishes and at the same time join with their fellow-citizens throughout the length

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and breadth of the British Empire in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of our beloved Sovereign's reign.

I think you may expect me to give you some account of the impressions I have brought back here, as a result of my two months' visit to England, and of the general atmosphere towards the Reforms Scheme which has been under consideration for some years and is now reaching its final stages.

It will, I am sure, be obvious to you all, knowing Parliamentary procedure as you do, that it would not be possible for me this morning to forecast information as to what recommendations the Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament is likely to contain. Nor again can I set your minds at rest as to the date of publication of the Report, for no final decision had been reached on that point when I left. As you know the Committee has dispersed for the summer recess, but will re-assemble early in October in order to carry its work to completion before Parliament is prorogued.

During my short stay at home I had many opportunities of meeting and having discussions with all sorts and conditions of people, with Members of both Houses of Parliament, with those interested in trade and commerce and business in India, and with many others, both men and women, who for one reason or another were keenly interested in Indian affairs. The general impression I have brought back with me is that the feeling amongst my countrymen in England is full of good-will and sympathy for the natural aspirations of Indians in regard to political advance. A deep sense of the responsibility was moreover evident on all sides in the general anxiety to obtain first-hand information from those of us who have had the most recent experience of the affairs and conditions in this country. I should like to add that I come back with

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feelings of the keenest appreciation, which I am sure will be shared by every Member of both our Legislative Chambers and by the public outside, of the untiring labours which the Members of the Joint Select Committee have freely and readily given during the past 15 months to secure a proper solution of the great problem of Indian Reform.

One assurance I can confidently give you. When the New Constitution Bill is passed into Law, you may rely on my efforts to ensure that no time will be lost in carrying into effect as expeditiously as possible the intentions of Parliament as expressed in the Act.

I have spoken of the responsibility of my countrymen at this present juncture, but we who live and work here and who have position and influence in the public life of this country have a great responsibility too. During the coming months it will be our duty to guide public opinion in the highest interests of all classes of our people. Let us put aside all racial feelings if such still exist, let us believe in each other's sincerity of purpose to continue working towards the fulfilment of our cherished hopes for the welfare and advancement of this country.

I would ask you to look around the world at the present time, and amid all the troubles, anxieties and possible dangers that we see in many countries and in diverse lands, we can proudly feel that within the territories of the British Empire conditions are both sound and stable, and that we are slowly and steadily recovering from the world depression which has so seriously affected us all.

For the greater part of my public life I have served the British Empire in its outward parts, and far the greatest number of years of that life have been spent in

*Banquet at Mandi.*

this country which I have always looked upon as my second Empire home. During that life I have become more and more convinced that it is by the example of the friendship and close co-operation within our Empire that we shall more and more exercise an influence in securing peace and good-will in what is now a very distracted and unsettled world.

With this in my mind let my last word to Hon'ble Members at the close of this Parliament be a heartfelt prayer that, as our two races by fate or destiny were brought together long years ago to work together for the development and prosperity of India, so in the future, and particularly in the critical days that lie before us, Providence may continue to guide us still to secure the fulfilment of those political hopes and aspirations for which many of us have striven for long years.

**BANQUET AT MANDI.**

6th October  
1934.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi gave a Banquet in honour of Their Excellencies' visit to his State. In reply to the toast of his health His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*The strain and stress of administrative life makes it increasingly difficult to pay much hoped for visits to, and to renew valued friendships made in years past with, many Princes in all parts of India. It is therefore with particular pleasure that I find myself enjoying Your Highness' generous hospitality, finding rest and refreshment amid your picturesque scenery and surroundings, and receiving from Your Highness the cordial welcome which you and your subjects have extended to me today. Her Excellency's abounding energy and vitality refused to be content with the more prosaic method of travel by

*Banquet at Mandi.*

rail and car and her account of her rapid journey through the glorious scenery of Kulu and the Jalori Pass has made me almost wish that I too had dared to cut myself off from civilisation and the telegraph for a few days and had accompanied her on a delightful ride. We have had a glimpse this afternoon of some of the antiquities of Mandi and we look forward with keen enjoyment of our visit tomorrow to Rawalsar where, I am told, we shall find a sacred home of religious life in surroundings of great beauty and interest.

Your Highness' State has come into increased prominence in recent years with the inception and successful completion of the vast Hydro-Electric scheme whereby the waters of the Uhl river have been harnessed and led through a great tunnel to bring light and power to the Punjab, and I well remember the great occasion when I had the privilege last year in Lahore to start this huge project by pressing a button which set all the machinery in motion. You, Sir, were present to witness the opening ceremony and I think must have felt a justifiable pride in the knowledge that it was your State of Mandi which was providing for the Punjab this great benefit which I hope may prove to be of inestimable value to the people of your State and that Province. On our return journey to Delhi I look forward with the keenest interests to seeing for myself at Jogindernagar something of the project with which I have had, up till now, no more than a "Pressing the Button" acquaintance.

Your Highness has been all too generous in giving me credit for the improvement in political conditions which is evident in India since I assumed charge of my high office. I rejoice with Your Highness that the clouds which then lowered so dark on the horizon have largely disappeared, and I trust and pray that peace

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and contentment may more and more take the place of discontent and unrest and that with improving economic conditions, India may in quiet and constitutional determination march forward to her legitimate goal. In the Federal plan, to which Your Highness has so sympathetically alluded in terms of approbation for which I thank you, I believe with Your Highness that the ideal solution has been found for meeting the needs and aspirations of an united India—British and Indian—in which the Indian States must have an important part to play, a weighty contribution to make—and I welcome Your Highness' considered utterance in its favour.

Your Highness has made a kindly reference to Her Excellency, and I can entirely endorse all you say of her. She has the interests of India deeply at heart and has given ungrudgingly to the betterment of its people, and particularly of its women and children. It will always be a happy memory to her and to me that our name will live for ever in these ancient hills and among the simple hill-folk in the building of which she has laid the foundation stone today.

I listened with great interest to Your Highness' summary of what you have been able to do for the advancement of your people since you have had your ruling powers, and I congratulate you warmly upon the successful results of the educational, medical, social and municipal reforms which you have inaugurated—all these are of special importance in these secluded hills with a primitive population still largely outside the march of time, and I know from my political officers the keen personal interest you yourself take in your administration, and the amount of credit attributable to yourself for the progress for which you provide the motive-power and inspiration. I much appreciate the reference

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you have made to Sir James FitzPatrick who has for the last seven years been the guide, philosopher and friend of the Princes of the Punjab, and whose approaching departure must be a source of regret to Your Highness as it is to me by the fact that on his retirement I am losing a most able and efficient officer.

And now ladies and gentlemen I ask you to rise with me and drink long life, happiness and prosperity to our hosts Their Highnesses the Raja and Rani of Mandi.

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PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE INDIAN  
MILITARY ACADEMY AT DEHRA DUN.

His Excellency the Viceroy at the time of presenting colours to the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun on the 18th November 1934 made the following speech :—

Gentlemen,—His Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to present to the Indian Military Academy two Colours and in addition a Banner to be competed for and held by the Champion Company.

I am privileged—as Viceroy—on His Majesty's behalf, and by his command, to give them into your keeping, and into the keeping of your successors at the Academy, for ever ; to be held by you in great honour, and treasured as a signal mark of his Royal favour, and of his deep interest in everything which concerns his Army in India.

This Academy was instituted in response to the widely expressed desire that, as a beginning had been made with the creation of a purely Indian Army, so India should possess, as all other countries do, her own.

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military college, in which her future officers will be trained.

My Government desired to ensure that this Academy should be in no way inferior to similar institutions in the British Isles and other countries, and I am very glad to have this opportunity of congratulating the military authorities on the fact that, in spite of the financial difficulties of recent years, they have carried out their part of this policy efficiently and well, and that we have an Academy which as far as its buildings and equipment are concerned will bear comparison with similar institutions in other countries. Under the skilled and sympathetic direction of Brigadier Collins, the Commandant, I am glad to learn that you cadets have made a good start ; it now rests with you all, through the training and education you receive here, to show in future years that you are well fitted to be entrusted with the great responsibility of commanding your countrymen in the Defence Services.

Most sincerely I wish you all success in your future careers, and trust that you may prove worthy of the great military traditions and history of your motherland, and will never do anything which might bring discredit on the Military Academy of India.

The Colours I now give into your keeping are not only a mark of Royal favour ; they are a symbol of common sacrifice and common endeavour to be willingly accepted by those who undertake to defend their King and Country in the hour of their need.

I charge you, and those who follow you here, to remember this, and so conduct yourselves in all your army service.

## OPENING OF THE POLICE CONFERENCE.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at 26th November 1934.  
the opening of a Police Conference in the Viceroy's House,  
New Delhi, on the 26th November 1934 :—

Gentlemen,—I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity of meeting Inspectors-General of Police and Officers of the Indian Police before you start the work of your Conference and of welcoming you to Delhi. I was unfortunately not here when the last Conference of Inspectors-General took place nearly two years ago, and though I have both before and after that Conference frequently met individual police officers, both when visiting Provinces and when at my headquarters, this is the first occasion for some time on which I have met such a representative body. I, therefore, take this opportunity of thanking you, Gentlemen, and through you all the officers and men of the Police Force for all that you have done for India during recent years. Since I came back to India as Viceroy in April 1931 we have gone through very difficult and stormy times. You and your men have had to bear the brunt of the attacks made upon Government, and many of you have no doubt at times felt apprehensive that the discipline and efficiency of the Force might be undermined by the constant attempts that were made to sap their loyalty, by the severe strain to which they were continuously subjected in dealing with subversive movements and communal disturbances and by the unjustifiable attacks that were made upon them for carrying out their bounden duty of maintaining law and order. It is with feelings of great pride that I, as head of the Government of India, can today warmly congratulate the Police Force on having passed through this time of trial magnificently ; we owe a very deep debt of gratitude to the Police of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, for as a result largely of their services we have weathered the storm of civil disobedience, and I can

*Opening of the Police Conference.*

assert with confidence that after these years of stress and toil the discipline and efficiency of the Police stand at an even higher level than they did when that storm broke on us four years ago.

I should also like to take this opportunity of paying a very special tribute to the Bengal and Calcutta Police, and I feel that in doing so I shall have the full support of those of you who come from other Provinces, for though all of you have had to deal with difficult problems and dangerous situations, in no Province has the Police Force been called upon to carry on such a prolonged struggle with so desperate and determined an enemy as in Bengal. It would be out of place for me on this occasion to attempt a review of the terrorist situation in Bengal. You, gentlemen, know as much or more about it than I do. All I will say is that I and my Government fully recognise that the marked improvement that has taken place in recent months is due to the unflinching loyalty and devotion to duty of the Bengal Police, to the steady pressure which they have kept up against terrorist organisations and to the efficient manner in which they have carried into practical effect the consistent policy of His Excellency Sir John Anderson and his Government. While it is true that during my annual visit to Calcutta I have had opportunities of meeting different bodies of the Police there, I would ask the Inspector-General of the Bengal Police and the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police to convey to their officers and men my very sincere appreciation of their invaluable services.

But I must not dilate further on the services of the Police in recent years, for today we must consider the future rather than the past. In previous years the main work of this Conference has been to consider technical problems of Police work, and these biennial meetings have given you an opportunity of pooling your experience and

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by interchange of ideas in formal and informal discussions of developing measures for the improvement of Police work in your Provinces. This year also you will deal with some of these problems, and I have no doubt that your discussions will prove profitable. But my main object in calling this Conference at this time is to give you an opportunity to study among yourselves and with the officers of my Home Department some of the problems with which we shall be faced when the new Constitution is brought into effect in the Provinces which, I hope, will be at no very distant date. Some of these problems were considered at your last Conference ; most of them have been discussed at length during the last two years by my Government and by the Secretary of State with Provincial Governments. But we have now reached what I hope is the last stage of these long and protracted discussions and you now have available the Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament. I apologise that this Conference is taking place so soon after the publication of the Report, and that so short a time has been given you to digest the contents of this important document.

I feel sure however that even a preliminary reading of the Report will have satisfied you that the Joint Select Committee have considered with the greatest attention every aspect of the problem of the Police under the new Constitution, that they were fully alive to the difficulties of that problem and to the risks involved in the transfer of law or order, that they have examined with meticulous care the proposals of His Majesty's Government contained in the White Paper and have paid full attention to the views which you and other officers of the Indian Police have from time to time put forward for their consideration. To make only one quotation from the Report, they have recognised " that it would indeed be disastrous if in any Province the Police Force, to whose constancy and

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discipline in most difficult circumstances India owes a debt not easily to be repaid, were to be sacrificed to the exigencies of a party or to appease the political supporters of a Minister''. They have framed their proposals with the purpose of avoiding this risk, and have made special recommendations with the object of maintaining the Inspector-General as the effective head of each Provincial Police Force in all that relates to internal organisation and discipline. In this and other vital respects they have strengthened the safeguards for the transfer of law and order and you will have found that they have dealt at length with the problem of terrorism and such important practical questions as the protection of Police Agents and the co-ordination of Intelligence between the Centre and the Provinces. I am able, with the authority of the Secretary of State, to give you an assurance that His Majesty's Government cordially accept all the recommendations which the Committee have made in regard to these vital points which I have mentioned and are determined to secure all provision necessary to implement them in the new Constitution.

I need not go into further detail. That task I will leave to my Home Member, Sir Henry Craik, and it will be for you now, with his help, to study the recommendations for yourselves. I hope that this examination will enable you before you leave to form a complete and clear idea of all their implications. I do not ask you to record your opinion on these proposals, still less do I ask you to record your approval of them. But I trust that, having formed a clear idea yourselves, you will on your return to your Provinces be in a position to explain the Report in its bearing on the Police to your officers and men so that there may be no anxiety among them based on any possible misunderstanding. If you are satisfied, as I hope you will be, that the recommendations of the Com-

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mittee have strengthened the position of the Police, and that all that is possible has been done to protect the Force from political interference, I trust you will give currency to your views and thereby establish among your officers and men a feeling of confidence.

There is however another more definite task before you. I have referred already to the recommendations made by the Committee with the object of maintaining the Inspector-General as the effective head of each Provincial Police. In considering this aspect of the problem, the Committee have been much impressed by the importance of the body of regulations known as Police Rules which govern largely the administration of the Force. To quote from their Report—"The subject-matter of some of the Rules is so vital to the well-being of the Police Force that they ought not, in our opinion, to be amended without the Governor's consent ; and the same consideration applies *a fortiori* to the Acts themselves which form the statutory basis of the Rules. Our aim should be to ensure that the internal organisation and discipline of the Police continue to be regulated by the Inspector-General and to protect both him and the Ministers themselves from political pressure in the vital field ".

For some time past you and your Local Governments have been examining the existing Rules to see how far those now in force secure the object of the Committee and whether they need amendment to make the Police as far as practicable a self-contained Force. Much of the work connected with the revision of the Rules has already been done, but a discussion round a table will enable you to interchange ideas, to profit by the experiences of other Provinces and to see whether the revision which you have already made is sufficient. The matter is urgent, for it is desirable that any change of system or further amendment of the Rules that may be necessary

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should be brought into effect before the new Constitution. I hope that, before the Conference is ended, you will have arrived at a final opinion as to the form the Rules should take in your Provinces and will be in a position to put any further suggestions which you may consider necessary before your Local Governments.

That, gentlemen, in brief is the work that I am asking you to do. I recognise as fully as you do that the mere creation of a suitable system on paper, however strongly it may be safeguarded, will not in itself lead to the maintenance of the present high standard of efficiency and discipline in the Indian Police. As was pertinently stated in the Memorandum presented to the Joint Select Committee by the Indian Police Association, "Our first line of defence against the undermining of Police discipline must be the good sense of the new Government and our own ability to influence them by constitutional means". That view I fully endorse and I have the fullest confidence that in the difficult period of transition that lies ahead of us, you and your successors in the key post of Inspector-General of Police will do all in your power to ensure the smooth working of the Constitution without in any way sacrificing the efficiency or contentment of the Police, which is so vital to the success of this great experiment.

Gentlemen, I thank you for attending this Conference and trust you will both enjoy, and profit by, your visit to Delhi.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF  
COMMERCE, CALCUTTA.

17th Decem- In opening the Annual Meeting of the Associated Cham-  
ber 1934. bers of Commerce, Calcutta, on the 17th December 1934, His

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Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech :—

*Mr. President, Your Excellency and Gentlemen,—I thank you most cordially for the warmth of the welcome you have extended to me this morning. May I say that for my part I am delighted to have this opportunity of meeting once again the members of the Associated Chambers, for I think I can claim that, realising as I do the close connection between the contentment of a country and the prosperity of her trade and commerce, I have spared no pains during the years that I have held my high office to interest myself in every possible way in all matters connected with commerce and finance. I therefore look forward each year, during my visit to Calcutta, to gaining first-hand information from you, gentlemen, on the many aspects of the commercial situation, and I hope that, as a result, you will credit me with pressing forward to the best of my ability the examination of any measures which I have considered to be for the benefit of the general commercial welfare. At all events you may be sure that these matters are constantly in my mind, for I know fully that the well-being of a large proportion of the population of this great country is dependent, to no small extent, upon the prosperity of her trade.*

Last year I gave you a comprehensive account of the outlook, as I saw it then, with regard to such matters as affect the business community in India. This year I propose to be more brief because my many preoccupations of the past few weeks, with regard to which I shall have more to say upon another occasion during my stay in Calcutta, have occupied my mind so fully that I have had but little time in which to prepare my speech today. And therefore, while I propose to say little this morning with reference to the Joint Select Committee's Report, after listening to your remarks, I can't refrain from expressing

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the profound hope that your anticipation as to the general verdict that may be given to its proposals by your important Association will prove entirely correct.

The year which has just passed has been less remarkable than its predecessor in regard to India's trade relations with other countries. Though the Indo-Japanese Trade Convention and Protocol were not formally signed until May, they have been in actual operation since agreement on essentials was reached by the two Delegations in the month of January. It may yet be too early to offer a final opinion, but my Government believe that the Agreement has achieved its objects, namely, the restoration of more normal conditions in the mutual trade of India and Japan and the re-establishment of friendly relations between the two countries. It will be of interest to this Association to know that the Government of Italy have expressed a desire to send a Trade Delegation to India with a view to discussing with my Government the problems of Indo-Italian trade. A matter which has been causing some concern is the German foreign exchange position. The situation is still obscure and it is not yet apparent to what extent India's export trade is likely to be affected by the new German regulations which recently came into force. I can, however, give the fullest assurance that the situation is receiving our closest attention.

In pursuance of the policy of international co-operation, my Government have ratified the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention respecting Load Lines, which were concluded in 1929 and 1930 respectively. The Conventions will come into force in British India on the 1st January 1935. On the same date the Simla Rules, which modify certain provisions of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention in so far as they apply to ships carrying large numbers of unberthed passengers or pilgrims, will also come into force.

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The Safety of Life at Sea Convention prescribes uniform standards for adoption by all contracting Governments as regards the construction, life-saving appliances, radio equipment and other matters affecting the Safety of Life at Sea, while the Load Line Convention similarly prescribes uniform principles and rules with regard to the limits to which ships on international voyages may be loaded. The standards laid down in these Conventions constitute a marked advance on those obtaining at present.

It is now over 18 months since the Tea Restriction Scheme was put into operation, and it is needless for me to point to the material benefits which have accrued to the Indian Tea Industry from the scheme. I would however like to take this opportunity of congratulating those responsible on the success with which the scheme has been administered in India. It is most gratifying to note that the necessity for interference with the operations of the Licensing Committee has been almost non-existent. It was to a great extent the example of the Tea Restriction Scheme which influenced my Government to lend its support to the International Agreement for the control of the production and export of rubber, and though the circumstances of the two industries are not identical, it is our earnest hope that the latter scheme of international co-operation will be as successful as its forerunner and result in a much-needed measure of prosperity to the rubber industry in India and Burma.

In my last address to your Association I referred to the success achieved by the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin" in turning out young officers for the Indian Mercantile Marine. Encouraged by this success we have decided to extend the scope of the training given on board, which has hitherto been directed towards the production of Mercantile Marine officers on the

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executive side only, and from the beginning of next year the "Dufferin" will have among her cadets a number of Engineer cadets who, after three years' preliminary training on the ship, followed by practical training at workshops in India, will in due course be qualified to take up appointments as Engineer Officers in the Indian Mercantile Marine. We have received assurances from engineering firms and shipping companies in India regarding the workshop training and subsequent employment of the Engineer cadets trained on the "Dufferin", and I take this opportunity to express my thanks to them for their co-operation in this regard.

Striking evidence of the value that business and other interests in India attach to the trunk telephone system is furnished by the fact that, in spite of the economic depression of recent years, there has been a very substantial increase in the traffic dealt with by that system. My Government propose steadily to pursue their policy of development of a trunk network between all important centres in this country.

In the field of Civil Aviation you are aware that we have recently undertaken a notable programme for the development of ground organisation. The Staff of the Civil Aviation Department is devoting all its energies towards securing the rapid completion of the more urgent part of the scheme, and we can look forward confidently to an early and marked improvement in the facilities afforded along India's main air routes.

The most important developments since I last addressed you have been the inauguration by Indian National Airways early this month of an air mail service between Karachi and Lahore and the duplication of Indian National Airways service between Calcutta and Rangoon.

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Although the saving in time which the first of these services provides is not inconsiderable, the experience it is hoped to gain during the initial stages of operation and the development of night landing facilities along the route should produce further acceleration.

The second development I have mentioned provides, in conjunction with the Indian Trans-Continental Airways' existing service, three services weekly between Calcutta and Rangoon—a frequency equal to that of the existing surface transport services. The saving of two days in transit between Calcutta and Rangoon should prove of great value to the trade of the two cities.

As you are doubtless aware from statements which have recently appeared in the press, a still more striking development is in immediate prospect, namely, the duplication of the air mail service between Croydon and Calcutta.

Simultaneously with these developments, a step in the cheapening of the air mail has been taken in the reduction in air mail charge by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department on letters from India, and by the British Post Office on letters to India. I hope that these reductions will be only a prelude to further reductions, which will enable the public, and more especially that part of it which you represent, to avail itself more freely of the advantages of the rapid interchange of business communications, to which the commercial community rightly attaches such great importance.

I referred last year to the important Road-Rail Conference held in April 1933, and the subsequent discussions between the Government of India and Local Governments. A further step forward will be taken next month when a Transport Advisory Council will meet for the first time.

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This will consist of the Members of my Government concerned, sitting with provincial Ministers and their advisers. Its discussion will cover a wide range, and will, I hope, crystallise policy in some matters and indicate others which can be further investigated with advantage. It is hoped that the Council will have yearly meetings and that it will provide close and regular contact between the Centre and the Provinces, for it must not be supposed that the problems with which it will be faced are capable of easy solution. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my pleasure at the readiness which all Local Governments have shown in co-operating with us in the search for a progressive policy of road and rail development, which is so badly needed by a country in which distances are as great as they are in India, and I trust that even at its first meeting the Transport Advisory Council will be able to put forward schemes of development which will be of immediate value and will also be a sound basis for future advance.

Much has been said on the question of bringing all matters concerning communications into one portfolio, both at the Centre and in the Provinces. In the Provinces the principal difficulty has hitherto been the constitutional division of subjects between the Reserved and Transferred sides, but we are now assured that, when that obstacle disappears, Local Governments will consider the possibility of making such adjustment as is compatible with a proper distribution of work. At the Centre we have found certain practical difficulties, which are now engaging our attention.

At the last budget session a Resolution was adopted by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature extending, without limit of time, the duration of the Central Road Account, and at the same time expanding its scope to include the development of rural and marketing facilities.

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The portion of this account placed at the discretionary disposal of the Government of India was increased from 10 to 15 per cent. This reserve has been and is being utilised to make grants for many roads and bridges which are important links in our chain of road communications and which without assistance from the reserve would, in all probability, not have been constructed for many years to come. We have also been able to defray the cost of a comprehensive survey of road development in Sind, and a similar survey for certain of the Eastern States and parts of Orissa has recently been undertaken.

This is hardly the time or place for me to enlarge on the engineering problems involved in the economical construction and maintenance of roads in India. I will say no more about them than that experts all agree that few countries in the world are faced with such difficulties as those that arise in India from the combination of fast motor traffic with heavy unsprung bullock carts with their narrow iron tyres. The problems naturally vary in different parts of India, but they have much in common, and if the Indian Roads Congress, which was inaugurated a few days before I left Delhi, takes permanent form, it should be able to render material help in forwarding their solution.

You will no doubt expect from me some reference to the existing economic position and some attempt to project myself into the future.

The first and most outstanding point is that the credit of India stands higher than it has done for 20 years. For the first time since 1896 the Government of India have issued a loan on a 3 per cent. basis and this now stands at over par. It is true that this was a comparatively short-term issue, but the medium and long-dated loans are all at prices which show a yield to redemption

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of something not very much above 3 per cent. There are of course a number of causes for this improvement of credit, most of them extremely satisfactory, one of them less so. The main causes no doubt are the improvement in the political condition of India and the sound financial policy pursued by my Government during the last three or four years. On the other hand, these factors by themselves could not have raised the prices of our securities to their present level but for the low rates prevailing in London, and these are due to the abundance of money seeking a home in London, partly because of the comparatively small demand for trade accommodation in the world at large, and partly because of unsettled political and monetary conditions in so many quarters. That the demands for money for financing international trade are not so heavy as we should like to see them is not surprising, for apart from the disturbed political conditions in all parts of the world, restraints are everywhere being placed upon trade in the shape of tariffs, quotas, prohibitions and exchange restrictions.

But if the high level of Government loans is in part a reflection of the limited demand for trade loans, it must not be assumed that India is still in the trough of the depression. It is quite true that recovery is not as rapid as we might wish, but there are definite signs that it is in process. The weekly figures of Railway earnings show that Railway Traffic has been on a considerably higher level during the current year than it was in the corresponding period of last year. The figures of external trade, both imports and exports, are a distinct improvement on those of last year. The general level of industrial production appears to be higher than it was in 1933. For the nine months up to September 1934 the indigenous production of mill-made cotton piecegoods showed an

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increase of 156 million yards over that of the corresponding period of 1933, and no doubt this increase would have been much greater but for the strike in Bombay during April and May. Iron and Steel manufactures show a very considerable increase, and improvement is noticeable also in cement, kerosene and petrol, and coal.

These are encouraging signs, and when we add to these the fact that in a number of primary commodities there has been a distinct recovery from the disastrously low level of prices to which the cultivator had been subjected, I think it can be said with confidence that India has passed the lowest point of the economic crisis and that some sort of upward movement is in evidence.

The important thing for us is "how far will this upward movement go?" There are a number of people who think that India can make herself independent economically of the rest of the world. I do not take that view. I believe that there are very definite limits to India's power of recovery independently of that of the rest of the world. We are, therefore, vitally interested in the recovery of the rest of the world.

For the world at large I doubt if recovery will go very far until two changes have occurred : the first, the restoration of some measure of political stability and confidence ; the second, the removal of a large number of the restraints which now exist upon the exchange of commodities and services.

To take the second point first, it is clear to me that the prosperity of India must, for many years to come, depend upon her ability to increase her sales abroad of the raw materials and foodstuffs which she so abundantly produces. It is true that this can, to some extent, be done by promoting the efficiency of her agriculture and marketing (including transport),

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But it depends much more upon the extent to which other nations of the world are willing and able to accept India's products. And this in its turn depends, to a very considerable extent, on India's willingness to accept their goods in return. The acceptance of imports from other countries is not necessarily an evil, it may very well mean an increasing capacity on the part of other countries to buy India's goods, and if so, the total volume of trade in both directions is increased, and the standard of prosperity of the world at large is enhanced.

As regards my first point, namely, political ~~disturbance~~ ~~disturbance~~, I feel that the experience of the last two years should do much to prove that tranquillity and obedience to the law of the land are an economic asset of the first magnitude. Surely it is no exaggeration to say that the upward movement to which I have already referred is in no small measure due to the stable political conditions which this country has recently enjoyed. I confidently hope that such stability will continue—it will be my constant endeavour to see that it does—and that a general determination to work the Reforms, which are now in process of being passed into law in England, will result in a continued revival of trade with increasing prosperity for the country, which will then be in a better position to stand the financial strain which the first stage—the introduction of Provincial Autonomy—must impose.

There is one important development that the coming year has in store, *viz.*, the institution of the Reserve Bank of India. The importance of this in the commercial and financial life of India can scarcely be over-estimated. Indians of every community as well as Europeans should work for its success, and it is not altogether a idle dream to hope that it may come to occupy the position in the economic life of India that the Bank of England does in

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that of Great Britain and the Empire and the world generally.

It is a source of great satisfaction to me—as I am sure it must be to all of you—to know that Sir Edward Bentham has agreed to serve as a Director of the Bank.

I have told you that on this occasion I do not propose to touch on the general aspects of the scheme of Constitutional Reform, but I will make a brief exception as regards commercial and other forms of discrimination, since this is a question closely affecting that heritage of trade and industry built up in India by your predecessors and worthily and honourably maintained by yourselves.

Trade relations are essentially a matter of confidence, trust and goodwill. Of that no one is in a better position to judge than yourselves. In my reading of the Committee's Report this broad truth is fully appreciated. It is a principle which, I am sure, you would yourselves be the first to endorse.

The Committee have recognised that when we move from one system of Government to another, when power passes to new hands, doubts may arise of the uses to which that power may be put. For that reason they have come to the conclusion that in matters of your trade, your industry and generally your commercial activities, the Constitution Act cannot be silent. You wish to know where you stand. So too do your friends in the Indian business community wish to know their own position. Therefore—and I quote the Committee's own words—they recommend certain provisions in the Constitution : “for the double purpose of facilitating the transition from the old to the new conditions and of reassuring sensitive opinion on both sides”. It is in no partisan

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spirit that the Committee have approached this question. They have been charged with a responsibility to ensure fair terms to all interested parties, and I read the recommendations in their report as actuated by that motive. You have not claimed, and do not desire, a privileged position. What you require is freedom to pursue your various enterprises in the normal conditions of commerce and industry, without fear that you may be put out of action by restrictions directed against yourselves as a community. The Joint Committee have been concerned to secure that you should suffer under no unfair handicap, and that full play should be given to your ability to contribute to the advancement of this country by your powers of organisation, by your technical equipment and your control of all that modern science can add to our amenities. On the other hand, no obstruction is placed in the way of the development or expansion of Indian industry in Indian hands in conditions in which they can, I hope, have no grievance against you and you no grievance against them. My own conception of the future is of a vast field open for development in which the help you can give to the Indian business community will not be not less welcome than the help which you will derive from them. On your joint contributions the country will rely for the attainment of its commercial and industrial advance.

And now, gentlemen, I leave you to discuss the many important items on your agenda. I have spoken today of an upward movement in trade, towards which the eyes not only of the Commercial Communities, but also of the Government and the whole country are eagerly turned. I trust that no cloud will arise to dim that vision and that all classes and communities of this great country will join in promoting peaceful and constitutional progress during the fateful months that lie ahead of us.

## EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION DINNER AT CALCUTTA.

The European Association of Calcutta entertained His Excellency the Viceroy to a dinner on the 19th December 1934 and proposed his health. In reply to the toast His Excellency made the following speech :—

It is hardly necessary to say that it is a very real pleasure to my wife and myself to find ourselves enjoying once again the hospitality of the members of the European Association, an organization which has been in existence for many years and whose principal duty and purpose is to guard and secure the varied interests and activities of many of my fellow-countrymen, who are chiefly engaged in trade and business in all parts of India. I gratefully thank you for the warmth of your welcome to-night and particularly thank you, Sir, for the delightful and most generous terms in which you have proposed the health of my wife and myself for the acceptance of this distinguished company.

Now under ordinary circumstances on an occasion of this kind I should not trouble you with any remarks of a serious character, but the atmosphere is so charged with politics in these days and members of this Association are so keenly interested in the political situation that I venture to ask you to allow me to detain you for a few minutes in order that I may place before you my views on the Report of the Joint Committee on the Indian Constitutional Reforms which has recently been published and which is the result of the earnest deliberations of a very distinguished body of my countrymen with wide experience of public life, many of them with practical knowledge of administration in India.

But before doing so let me express my gratitude to you, Sir, for having so very frankly put before us to-night the general views of your Association on the

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Report. I was very glad to hear your statement that to use your own words "the scheme embodied in the Report is satisfactory ; that the recommendations of the Report form a reasonable basis on which to frame the Act which will give to India her new Constitution, a Constitution which will achieve a notable step towards the ultimate goal which is envisaged in the Preamble to the Act of 1919—responsible Government in British India as an integral part of the British Empire".

This I assure you is a most heartening and encouraging statement to the Government of India and to His Majesty's Government at home. You were equally frank in telling us that you were still very critical of the Report on certain matters which you have referred to, and that you proposed at the proper time to press your views before Parliament, which of course you are perfectly justified in doing.

I am sure you would agree that this is not the time or place for me to follow you in a discussion on the points you have raised, for it might lead to, I'm sure, a very friendly, but at the same time a somewhat lengthy exchange of views which might be found rather tedious by this distinguished company. No, Sir, my remarks to-night will refer little to details, for I wish to express my general views on the main proposals that the Report contains and how I consider they will affect all classes and conditions of people who live and work in this country.

We are approaching, I hope, the end of the prolonged discussions on the future Government of India and although much work still remains to be done, His Majesty's Government are determined to do all that is in their power to ensure that there will be no undue delay in passing into law the Bill which will shortly be laid before the House of Commons, while I and my

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Government out here in India will push on with all the measures which are necessary preliminaries to the inauguration of the new constitution. A bill of this magnitude and importance must necessarily be subject to most careful and detailed consideration by Parliament, and it is a matter of the greatest satisfaction that, as the results of the recent debates in both Houses, a large majority of members accepted the advice of these British statesmen who after the closest consultation with representatives of public opinion in this country have embodied their conclusions in that historical document, the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

As is inevitable in all political controversies, extreme views have been expressed. On the one hand we have in India those who, paying little attention to history, appear at times to be oblivious of the fact that it is as a result of co-operation between Britain and India that India has arisen to the position which she now enjoys. They have advocated a severance with the past and have adopted the policy of "complete independence". In pursuit of that policy they have at times followed the most unconstitutional methods, but the methods of boycott, non-co-operation and civil disobedience have now been given up, I trust, finally, and I welcome the return to the Central Legislature of the representatives of the Congress Party who have been successful at the recent election, for closer association with Government and with its problems and difficulties will, I hope, make them realise that all of us whatever our political views or whatever our position are equally eager for the advancement of this great country to its promised goal.

At the other extreme there are those who, while not advocating any repudiation of the ideal set out in 1919 of the progressive realisation of responsible Government in British India as an integral part of the Empire, are

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apprehensive that progress is too rapid and that the advancement which is now proposed will not result in the good government of the country nor conduce to the strength and prosperity of the Empire. Those who hold these views seem to have their eyes too much focussed on the past and to overlook the developments of the last quarter of a century and the growth during that period of a great spirit of nationalism in India. Between these two extreme views it is my confident belief that a large majority of public opinion both in this country and my own, while for different reasons they may not agree with these proposals in their entirety, are ready to support them in the belief that they are a fair, just and well-balanced effort to deal with the manifold difficulties and intricate questions that constitutional reform in India necessarily involves.

Many of you have no doubt studied the Report with care or at least the admirable introduction to the detailed proposals which sums up the problem and gives concisely the reasons underlying the recommendations. You will have seen that the Committee have steered the middle course. They have recognised the danger both of rashness and over caution, and in the constitution which they have recommended have propounded a scheme of evolutionary constitutional development, a scheme designed both to work successfully in India as it is to-day and to contain in itself the seeds of further growth. With this object in view they have stressed the need for flexibility so that opportunity may be afforded for a natural process of evolution with a minimum of alteration of the constitutional framework. It will, I think, be agreed that the constitutional framework is sound.

From these proposals will be framed a measure which for the first time contains complete autonomy in the Provinces and a very large extension of the franchise,

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both male and female, to what we have had hitherto. And in the Centre too the administration under the Governor General will become largely autonomous, which to my mind is one of the most important proposals of them all, for, speaking with some experience I have long been convinced that the present system of having a non-official majority with an irremovable executive is a temptation to that majority to be apt to be irresponsible in their actions in the Legislative Assembly and is the worst possible training in Parliamentary life. Yes, and they contain for the first time the great purpose of producing an all-India Federation, the possibility of which was brought about by the fine gesture made by the representatives of the Princes at the First Round Table Conference, an ideal which many of us have had for some years in our minds and which we now trust may come to fruition. And here, Sir, I should like to say a very few words with regard to the Princes, more particularly so because efforts have been made on more than one occasion recently to misrepresent my attitude and to accuse me and my Political Officers of endeavouring to coerce, bribe and intimidate the Princes into joining the Federation. I deny that flatly and absolutely, and furthermore I am certain that every Prince in India will endorse what I say. My attitude has been—and will continue to be—that I have advised those Princes who have sought my advice to enter into this great Federal scheme provided that their legitimate aspirations are met by the provisions of the Bill, for I honestly and sincerely believe that their entry will be not only to their own advantage but for the benefit of India as a whole. Advice, however, is not coercion or intimidation and whereas no pressure has been brought in the past, so will no pressure be brought in the future—either by myself or by the officers of my Political Department—to coerce or intimidate the Princes with regard to the important decision

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which they must shortly take. But I trust and hope that when the Bill is laid on the table of the House of Commons they will find that their position will be adequately safeguarded and that they will therefore stand by the promises and assurances given by their representatives at the First Round Table Conference to be a willing partner in an all-India Federation.

There is one point of detail, however, to which I feel I must refer tonight. You, members of the European Association in Bengal, have naturally been specially interested in the problem of law and order and in the provisions that have been made for dealing with the menace of terrorism which unfortunately still overhangs this Presidency. I trust you are satisfied with the proposals put forward by the Committee after a full consideration of the problem in all its aspects and of the opinions and suggestions which your representatives and others have put forward. They have introduced further safeguards and their report has been criticised on this ground. But I sincerely hope the necessity for using these safeguards will not arise. There are already most reassuring signs that public opinion in Bengal is setting against the terrorist movement and I trust that the first Ministers in this Presidency will shoulder the responsibility which is put upon them and with the full support of the services of the Crown will deal with this problem as efficiently as it has been dealt with by the present Government of Bengal. But should my optimism be misplaced, should conditions be such as to render the use of these safeguards inevitable, you may rest assured that they will be brought into effect and that nothing will be done which will cause conditions in Bengal to deteriorate. The provision of 'safeguards' has evoked more criticism than any other part of the constitutional proposals and even though the Committee have given what to my mind are most convincing arguments in support

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of these proposals, they are often misrepresented and many critics tend to overlook that important passage in the report in which the Committee point out that "these safeguards are not only not inconsistent with some form of responsible government, but in the present circumstances of India it is no paradox to say that they are the necessary complement to any form of it, without which it could have little or no hope of success". But this does not mean that they will be in constant use. As Governor General of Canada many powers were entrusted to me which I never had occasion to use. If all goes well—and I am optimistic enough to hope that it will—there will be few occasions for using them in this country. But still they are there in reserve, and if the need to bring them into effect should unfortunately arise, they will be ready to hand and will be used not merely to prevent any crisis resulting in chaos or anarchy but to prevent any deterioration of the administrative machine which would facilitate such a crisis. I have lived and worked for many years in India and can remember well the circumstances surrounding the discussions on the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms Scheme which took place nearly 17 years ago and can honestly say that to my mind the proposals contained in the Report are an immense advance towards responsible Government on the provisions contained in that measure.

I don't think that anyone will doubt my sincerity of purpose during all the years I have lived in this country. My constant effort has always been to move India forward until she achieves her great desire to arrive at a complete position of equal partnership within the Empire with the other Dominions under the Crown ; for I have always held that the nationals of any country are fully justified in claiming that they should have the control of the administration of their own home land as

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soon as they are ready to undertake the full responsibility. I would ask my Indian friends to remember a fact that we all too often forget that there have been sudden revolutionary changes in administration in recent years in various countries both in the East and West which have brought about conditions which cause grave anxiety and consequent economic depression among all countries in the world, and that there is now more stability in the countries of the British Empire than can generally be found elsewhere, and with the recollection of these facts I would ask them again if it is not wiser to move steadily with our ultimate goal always in view, rather than risk any disaster in our desire to move forward too fast. There are some, I know well, who are anxious to throw off at once all outside control and wish to arrive at a position of independence without any delay. With some knowledge of this country I am sure they are entirely wrong and I am perfectly confident that the great majority of all classes of our people would entirely endorse my opinion.

Let me further say what I have always felt very strongly that during long years of close association, we British have shared with Indians the great trust and responsibility for the care and well-being of the various and diverse human elements in this land. We are not going to hand over that responsibility until we can safely do so, until indeed our Indian fellow citizens are ready to take the full responsibility for the administration of their country. And I ask, is that not a reasonable view and one that is in the best interests of every citizen of this country? Is it not true to say that when first our two races became associated over 100 years ago India was in a condition of turmoil and unrest? And may I not claim that this close association has brought to India safety from foreign aggression? Has it not largely saved

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India from the horrors of plague and famine ? Have we not secured fair administration through the country and the development of transport by road, rail and air which has proved an immense benefit to our people, and which has opened up the possibility of establishing many great commercial and industrial concerns which have brought increasing prosperity and employment in their train ? May I not claim too that this has come about in past years largely owing to the brains and expert knowledge of thousands of my countrymen who have for long years given devoted service to this country during the best years of their lives ? And if this association has been of benefit to India, has not a further benefit been secured by the fact that she has become and is becoming an increasingly important partner in the destinies of a great Empire, which is the most stable part of the civilised world at the present time ?

When a report deals with a problem of the greatest magnitude, with a problem which has been under discussion for years and on which all shades of opinion have put forward their views, it must inevitably happen that there are many points of detail on which many of us do not see eye to eye with the Committee. There is still opportunity for those who object to some of the proposals to press for modification on points of detail. But we must take the Report as a whole and the question which we in India have to decide is what attitude should be adopted by those in this country who are anxious for its political advancement. Two alternatives seem to me to present themselves. The first is to accept the report as laying down broadly the right lines of advance, Provincial autonomy, an All-India Federation and a considerable measure of responsibility at the Centre. The second alternative is a flat and sterile rejection of the scheme, an attitude which connotes continuing for an indefinite

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period under the existing constitution. We stand at the parting of the ways. The process of legislation is about to commence. The question which India has to decide is which of these two courses is more likely to hold the cause of India's freedom in Parliament. To my mind there can be but one answer. And so I urge all those who are interested in Reforms to work this Bill when it passes through Parliament. We may not get all we wish for, we may not feel satisfied with all its contents, but I am certain that if we work it with sincerity and purpose we shall find that it is a great advance, a big step forward towards complete responsibility for Indians in India.

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OPENING OF THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS,  
CALCUTTA.

2nd January 1935. His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the Indian Science Congress at Calcutta on the 2nd January 1935 made the following speech :—

*Your Excellency, Dr. Hutton, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*This is the fourth occasion upon which the Indian Science Congress has met in Calcutta. The first was the inaugural meeting held in 1914 in the rooms of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. It met again in Calcutta in 1921, by which date the activities of the Congress had outgrown the capacity of the rooms of the Asiatic Society ; and also in 1928. After the lapse of seven years, it re-assembles in the great city of its birth. This is a well-deserved tribute to the intellectual and scientific attractions of Calcutta ; but the very periodicity of these sessions in one centre, however eminent, illustrates the importance which the Congress attaches to maintaining touch with the length and breadth of India. Thus it is that you have visited in turn Madras, Bombay, Bangalore, Lahore, Lucknow, Allahabad, Patna and Nagpur. This is in the fitness of things. It is apt to be forgotten that

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India is a Sub-Continent, with many centres of vigorous and expanding intellectual life. A body, which confines its activities to any one place, can never achieve that synthesis of national service which must be the aim of, as indeed it is the sole justification for, an all-India organisation.

Though your activities thus extend throughout India and though they indubitably exercise a widespread and an expanding influence, the Viceroy has never yet been present at one of your meetings. My distinguished predecessor, Lord Irwin, was unfortunately prevented by illness from being present in 1928. I am glad that, in this respect, I have been able to establish a precedent ; I am confident that my friend and joint Patron of this session of the Congress, His Excellency Sir John Anderson, will not grudge me the pleasure (which would otherwise have fallen to him) of opening the present session and of affording a practical demonstration of the keen interest which I and my Government take in your deliberations.

I am even more glad that my presence here today coincides with what may be termed the " coming of age " of the Congress. Ladies and Gentlemen, historical generalisations run the risk of giving an imperfect expression of the truth. Truth has many facets, and the greater the brevity of a generalisation, the greater may be its imperfection ; but I suggest that I run the least risk of this imperfection in describing our present age as predominantly the age of science. Every aspect of human activity bears testimony to this contention. Even literature has been enriched by the concepts and terminology of science. Economics and industry depend, for progress, on its quickening force. Human life has been shorn of many terrors of disease by the light which scientific investigation has thrown on their causes and on

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the methods of their prevention and cure. The data of science have provided new and fascinating material for those brilliant minds whose speculations seek the inner meaning of the nature of life and the universe.

India, the birth-place of philosophy, cannot but aspire to an active and honourable share in these movements, whether utilitarian or philosophic. But, as I have already suggested, India is a land of vast distances, and the isolation of scientific workers presents a grave disadvantage ; it is, therefore, at least something that, once a year, leaders in science have been enabled to meet together in order to exchange experiences and also to examine and discuss the several contributions which have been made by scientists in India to the common stock of scientific knowledge. I offer my sincere good wishes not only for the successful deliberations of the present session, but also for the future development of your Association which, having completed twenty-one years of fruitful activity, now "comes of age". In the days that lie before us, India will need, more than ever before, your help and guidance.

It may be asked what part does Government play or propose to play in India's contribution to science. Members of the Congress will need no elaborate reminder of what the Government of India have done and are doing in this respect. Three Scientific Services, whose work has won world-wide recognition, owe their inception and existence to their initiative. I refer to the Geological, the Meteorological and the Zoological Surveys of India. Further, the Medical Research Department of the Government of India and the Indian Research Fund Association, which is financed by them, have done much to alleviate human suffering in combating those fell diseases which are still so powerful and so destructive. In the promotion of agricultural research, on which the prosperity of our

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agricultural masses so vitally depends, they still take a useful share through the agency of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The problems of India's forests, a great economic asset, also receive attention in the laboratories of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. Again, a Bureau of Industrial Information and Research is in the process of formation ; and only last month a Congress of Road Engineers met to devise ways and means of organising research in problems of road construction. In modern times, a country without maps is a "dark continent". The preparation of such maps has been accepted in India for many years past as an important function of Government ; the topographical maps of this country, which the Survey of India produce, bear comparison with those of any other country.

This enumeration of the Central Government's activities has not been made in any spirit of self-congratulation ; it is intended merely to indicate that I and my Government have not been unaware of the benefits which should be derived from scientific research. I hasten to add that we shall continue to render assistance in these directions to such extent as our resources permit. Nor is my account in any sense exhaustive of the share of the State in scientific research. Under our present constitutional structure, responsibility for many branches of scientific activity, as, for example, in medicine, industry and agriculture, rests, within their own territorial limits, with Provincial Governments. I have not touched upon their achievements owing to limitations of time as well as of information.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, Government can be only a single factor in what is a nation-wide undertaking. Scientific research demands the sympathetic interest and the effective support of all who have India's welfare at heart ; of Governments, central and provincial ; of

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universities, which must remain the principal homes of fundamental research ; of pioneers of industrial development ; of landed magnates ; and last, but not least, of scientists themselves. Those private individuals or organisations, whom fortune has favoured with command of material resources, can afford the much needed augmentation to the financial assistance rendered by the State and by Universities. The example of the late Sir Jamsetji Tata, of the late Sir Tarak Nath Palit, and of the late Sir Rash Behari Ghose should be an emulous stimulant to private benefactors. Only then can universities and leaders of science satisfactorily enrich the stream of scientific work that flows from various centres of scientific activity.

I have viewed with special interest and appreciation the growing contact between scientific research and the practical demands and requirements of industry, of which the liberal assistance given by the Burma Oil Company towards the foundation of the College of Engineering in Rangoon, and the recent donation of Messrs. Steel Brothers for research in oil technology at Lahore are outstanding examples—examples which are also significant of a growing and beneficial contact between universities and industry, and which, I earnestly hope, are but the forerunners of a far closer intimacy between these two in the realm of scientific research. As for scientists themselves, besides directing the efforts of others, they can, by team work in the broadest sense of the word, ensure the maximum of achievement that is possible within available resources. For, however great may be the future assistance given by Government and by private benefactors, it can never be sufficient to satisfy the ever-increasing demands of scientific research. I would suggest, therefore, that there is urgent need for an effective and an economical husbanding of your resources.

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A well-devised co-ordination of scientific activities has become imperative ; it is from this standpoint that I especially welcome the functions and outlook of your Association.

Members of the Congress, I shall not detain you longer. I have greatly appreciated the privilege of inaugurating your proceedings. I shall now leave you to the more exacting part of your programme ; I am confident that, under the guidance of your distinguished President, Dr. Hutton, whose anthropological researches have made his name familiar wherever this interesting and valuable science is studied, your deliberations will be fruitful to the cause you serve.

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*BANQUET AT REWA.*

His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa gave a Banquet in 11th January honour of Their Excellencies' visit to his State. In reply to <sup>1935.</sup> the toast of his health His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank Your Highness most gratefully for the charming words with which you have proposed the health of my wife and myself for the acceptance of this distinguished gathering, to whom our thanks are also due for the cordial manner in which they have received the toast. The warmth of the reception that we have received not only from Your Highness but also from your subjects in Rewa makes us all the more delighted that at long last we have achieved our desire to visit Your Highness in your own home.*

For I think Your Highness is well aware that I have long been desirous of visiting your State, but unfortunately it is true that in these strenuous days the Viceroy is seldom at liberty to follow his own inclinations. The cares of administration and the necessities of the political situation have made it difficult for me to leave the headquarters of Government and it is a matter of very real

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regret to me to feel that I have been unable to pay visits to many of your brother Princes, whose friendship I have the privilege to claim after long years of close association during my life in different parts of your country. I sometimes wish we could, at any rate for a short time, go back to those spacious and more easy-going days when Viceroys appeared to have ample time to undertake tours in a leisurely manner.

You have been very generous in your observations with regard to such humble services as my wife and I have rendered to all classes and conditions of people with whom we have been associated since we have lived in India. This I can honestly say that we have done our best to deal fairly and justly by all, and to show the keenest sympathy and interest in the hopes and aspirations of all classes, and to endeavour to make life happier and brighter to all those among whom we have lived. We shall, I assure you, never forget the goodwill we have been shown, and the friendships we have made in the course of our lives amongst you.

I noticed when listening to your speech that Your Highness, with what I am sure was a characteristic desire to give my mind a rest during my all too short stay as your guest, carefully avoided all reference to the Reforms and the future constitution of India. I intend to follow your excellent example. I would merely say that unquestionably difficult times lie ahead—for all of us—I do not wish to exaggerate or to minimise them—when decisions have to be taken ; but I have a very real belief in the sound common sense of the Princes and people of India, and it is with this belief firmly in my mind that I look forward with hope and confidence to the future.

It is surely hardly necessary for the Ruler of your House with a record such as that of your family, to reaffirm the loyalty that Your Highness and your predeces-

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sors have always shown to the Throne and Person of His Majesty, our Sovereign, but I will certainly convey to His Majesty—expressed in your own words—the feeling of sanctity with which you regard the link which indissolubly binds your House to the Crown and which no change in the Constitution that may take place in the future shall be permitted to weaken or alter in any respect.

I have learnt with much interest the steps Your Highness is taking to keep yourself and your people abreast of modern movement through giving them the improvements and advantages of higher and technical education, and by an alteration in your revenue law which will, let us hope, give increasing prosperity and comfort to your agricultural classes who form the large majority of the population of your State. I sympathise cordially too with Your Highness in your desire to develop more thoroughly the rich natural resources of your State of which you have spoken. You have told us that lack of railway communications have seriously impeded your efforts. As you are aware, the past years of depression have seriously curtailed all railway development. I am hopeful however that we can look forward to a return of better times in the near future and I can assure you that such representations as you may make in regard to any assistance we can give you in your efforts will be carefully and sympathetically considered.

On behalf of all your guests assembled round this table I wish to express their grateful thanks for your welcome and generous hospitality. May I particularly thank you for your reference to my Political Secretary Sir Bertrand Glancy whose recognition by His Majesty in the recent Honours List has been a great satisfaction to all his friends and a well deserved recognition of his services to the country. He and I have been associated together in the Political Department long enough for me

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to give Your Highness the assurance that he is determined to uphold the rights and privileges of the Princes and that their interests are safe in his hands.

I regret extremely that Colonel MacNabb has, through ill health, found it impossible to be with us this evening. I am sure we all trust that a short holiday in England will completely restore him to health and that he will return to continue the efficient service which he has given in carrying out his important duties.

Twentyfive years of the reign of a Sovereign is a significant event in the life of any country, and how much more significant does it become when we realise that on May 6th of this year we shall celebrate this event in all countries that comprise the British Empire. Those years have as you say, Sir, been identified with a period of progress, of civilisation and of social and political advancement. His Majesty has indeed been to us all a trusted Sovereign, and has set us all a magnificent example by his constant service for the welfare of his subjects.

Your Highness, let me once more express our grateful thanks for the cordial welcome you have extended to Her Excellency and myself and for your generous hospitality, of which we shall carry away with us happy memories. Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to join me in drinking prosperity to the Rewa State and health and good fortune to our distinguished host His Highness Maharaja-dhiraja Sir Gulab Singh Bahadur.

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#### OPENING OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES.

22nd January 1935. His Excellency the Viceroy presided over the Session of the Chamber of Princes at New Delhi on the 22nd January 1935 and opened the proceedings with the following address :—

*Your Highnesses,—This is the third time that I have enjoyed the privilege of presiding at your deliberations*

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in this Chamber, and I welcome Your Highnesses more heartily than ever on this present occasion, because for various reasons a period of nearly two years has elapsed since the last session took place. But, though there has been no regular meeting of the Princes' Chamber during this long interval, Your Highnesses have held many informal discussions amongst yourselves about the all-important subject which has never ceased of late to engage your attention—the constitutional future of India to which I shall briefly refer later in my remarks. Let me commence today by referring to the losses that your Order has sustained in the course of the last two years. There are, I regret to say, no less than four Ruling Princes who were members of this Chamber when last we met, and have since then passed away.

The first name that I must mention is that of His late Highness Maharaja Sir Ranjitsinhji, Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, who died on the 2nd April 1933. As a member of this Chamber the late Jam Sahib attained a prominence that few Ruling Princes have equalled. He served as a member of the Standing Committee from its very beginning until 1932 when he was elected Chancellor; on no less than three occasions he represented the Indian States at the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva. His late Highness was made a Major in His Majesty's Army in 1914, and he served with the Expeditionary Force in France, remaining on field service up to November 1915; in recognition of his war services he was given the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1918 and his salute was raised permanently to 13 guns with a personal salute of 15 guns; he was at the same time granted the title of Maharaja as a hereditary distinction.

But it was perhaps as a sportsman and particularly as one of the greatest and most attractive cricketers that the world has seen that the late Jam Sahib was most

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widely known to the general public outside this country. In every walk of life he was a man who inspired the affection and regard of all who came in contact with him. In peace and in war, in the sphere of politics and in the field of sport, he was an outstanding figure. As one who was privileged to be on intimate terms with him for many years, for our friendship began long before I ever came to India, I mourn his loss very deeply, and I am sure that all those present here today who were fortunate enough to know His late Highness personally will fully share the feelings I have expressed.

Another sad loss that the States of Western India have suffered is by the untimely death of the late Thakur Saheb of Wadhwan, who passed away towards the end of July last at the early age of 35 years.

Central India has to mourn the death of His late Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior). His late Highness was granted the hereditary title of Maharaja in 1918 for services rendered in connection with the War. He was a man of most devout character, known far and wide for his piety and deep devotion to his faith.

The Punjab Princes have lost a distinguished member of their Order by the sudden death in Europe of His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur. His late Highness was also given the hereditary title of Maharaja in 1918 in recognition of his War services : he was also gazetted an Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and he was further rewarded by the grant of a personal salute of 13 guns in 1931.

To the bereaved relatives of these Princes I know that you will all join with me in expressing your sympathy, and I know, too, that we are all united in wishing every happiness and prosperity to their successors.

There are two Princes who by the termination of their minorities have become new members of this Chamber—

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His Highness the Raja of Faridkot and His Highness the Nawab of Janjira. To them also we will all, I am sure, extend a cordial welcome coupled with the hope that they will take a constant interest in this Chamber in all matters that concern the Order of Princes.

Sahibzada Abdus Samad Khan of Rampur and Rao Bahadur Sir V. T. Krishnamachari of Baroda were selected to be Delegates at the meetings of the League of Nations Assembly held, respectively, in 1933 and 1934, and we shall look forward with much interest to the presentation of their reports.

Since the last session of this Chamber a great step forward has been made in pursuance of the policy of bringing all Indian States into direct relations with the Government of India. This move has now been completed in the case of all the remaining Bombay States, as also in the case of the Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces States. There are now only a small number of States remaining, in respect of which the same change has still to take place. I should be the last to deny that relationship with Provincial Governments has entailed many practical advantages to the States concerned, for I am well aware that these States have had good cause for gratitude to the Local Governments with which they have been in contact. But constitutional developments have made the continuance of such a system impracticable, and it is hoped that before long the process of establishing direct relations between the Government of India and every State in this country will be successfully concluded.

Several Ruling Princes from the States to which I have just referred have expressed a strong desire that their claims to membership of this Chamber should be duly recognised. This question has engaged the attention of the Standing Committee and various opinions on the

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subject have been expressed. One cogent reason, as I think you will agree with me, for avoiding any precipitate action in this respect is to be found in the fact that certain changes in the constitution and functions of the Chamber itself have of late been informally suggested. I shall await with the keenest interest any proposals in this regard that may be brought to my notice. At present I do not wish to prejudice whatever views Your Highnesses or those Princes who have up till now remained aloof from the activities of this Chamber may desire to put forward. But I will say this much that I regard the effective co-operation of all Indian States, both great and small, as an object of the utmost importance to Your Highnesses and to your Order. It is a time-worn adage that in unity lies strength, and I sincerely trust that Your Highnesses will give your very earnest attention to the benefit of combining together, as closely as possible, for the good not only of the Indian States but for the advantage of India as a whole.

I will conclude with just a few words on that predominant subject to which I have already alluded—the future constitution of this country. I would remind Your Highnesses of two observations that I made when we last met together. Firstly, as I then remarked, it was the Princes of India who at the first Round Table Conference, by their expressed determination to join with British India in securing a real measure of progress for this country towards responsible government, made Federation a practical possibility. Secondly, I said that no State until its Instrument of Accession is signed is finally committed to Federation. Both of these remarks hold good today. No one can be surprised that at such a time, when far-reaching changes are imminent, the States should ask for assurances that their vital interests will not be prejudiced. So far as it is practicable to do

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so, the most painstaking endeavours have been made to see that the position of all States that decide on Federation shall remain secure. As I told Your Highnesses at our last meeting, I am personally convinced that for the Indian States the wisest course is to accept the Federal scheme, and I have been gratified to learn that the informal conference of Ministers recently convened at Bombay arrived at the conclusion that the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee represents from the States' point of view a distinct advance on the White Paper, especially in the financial field. The Bill itself will very shortly be presented to Parliament, and until you have had an opportunity to study the measure, and have furthermore considered the draft Instruments of Accession and the Instruments of Instructions that are to be given to the Governor-General and to the Provincial Governors, it is but natural that you should desire to postpone your final decision. The choice, as I have said, still lies open to you all. Your Highnesses are no doubt aware that from time to time allegations have been made in the Press—and indeed a further instalment of these allegations has appeared today—to the effect that pressure has been brought to bear on the Princes by myself or my officers in order to coerce them into Federation against their will. I have already on several occasions declared that their insinuations are entirely and utterly baseless. I repeat again that they have no foundation whatever and I am sure that Your Highnesses will be last to deny the truth of what I say : nobody knows better than the Princes themselves that no form of coercion has been employed and it is, I think, legitimate to conclude that those who descend to entirely false allegations of this description must be hard put to it for arguments to support their case.

I trust that enough has been done to convince you that in the new Constitution no effort will be spared to pro-

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tect the integrity of the States, and I sincerely hope that the Princes, while not unmindful of their own particular interests, will not stand apart from the development that must inevitably affect the greater part of this great country, but will be ready to take their share in promoting constitutional progress on sound and satisfactory lines and in helping the new political machinery to function effectively to the common good of British India, the Indian States and the Empire.

## OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

24th January 1935. His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the opening of the Delhi Session of the New Legislative Assembly on the 24th January 1935 :—

*Gentlemen,—*In rising to greet Hon'ble Members to this, the first session of a New Assembly, my first very pleasant duty is to congratulate you warmly, Mr. President, on your election to your important and responsible post. With some intimate knowledge of your activities during long years of public service, I am confident that you will carry out your duties with fairness and justice to every Hon'ble Member of this Assembly, and I am equally confident that I can rely on every Hon'ble Member giving you his full support in upholding the dignity of the Chair.

My next duty is to welcome to the Legislative Assembly those who have been elected by their constituencies to represent their interests. Many of those who were members in the Assembly when I last addressed it have failed to secure re-election, and though I and my colleagues cannot but regret the absence of those with whom we have been so closely associated during the lifetime of the last Assembly, our welcome to those who have

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taken their places is none the less sincere. I trust that closer association with my Government will make those of you who come to this House for the first time appreciate more fully the difficult nature of the problems with which we all are called upon to deal, and that discussions, whether formal or informal, will make you realise that even though we may differ as to methods, we all have before us the same ideal, the welfare and advancement of India.

Before I pass on to refer in greater detail to some of the matters which will engage your attention during the session, I must touch on one matter which falls outside the realm of politics or political controversy. The year 1935 marks the twentyfifth anniversary of His Majesty the King-Emperor's accession to the Throne. It is in accordance with His Majesty's wishes that May 6th is to be a day of special thanksgiving throughout the Empire. Local Governments and the local Committees which they are constituting will, I feel sure, receive the cordial support of members of all communities, classes and creeds in carrying out their thanksgiving celebrations in the manner most appropriate to the locality. You will also have seen the Public Appeal which I issued a few weeks ago, with the gracious approval of His Majesty, suggesting that in commemoration of this auspicious occasion a fund should be raised in India for charitable purposes and to be devoted to four institutions of an All-India character, which are well known to all classes in the country as a constant source of relief to cases of suffering and want. The very ready response which was given to the appeal to relieve the distress caused by the Earthquake a year ago makes me hope that once again the Princes and Peoples of India will give proof of their devotion to the Crown and of their generosity to those

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in need of assistance. I profoundly hope that all Members of the Assembly will do their share in helping on this work.

May I also say that I am glad to think that, at the very outset of their association with the present Assembly, Hon'ble Members will have an opportunity of seeing something of the work of the Army during the course of the manœuvres that are now taking place in the vicinity of Delhi. It has always been the view of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and it is one in which I entirely concur, that the representatives of the tax-payer should have every right to see in every sphere as much as they can of the way in which their money is spent.

It is my custom on this occasion to give you a general survey of the situation in India under the various heads of our administration and to inform you of such legislative measures as we propose to lay before you for your consideration, in addition to the Railway and General Budgets which are always brought up for discussion at this session.

Let me commence by saying that, as regards Foreign Affairs, India's relations with her neighbours continue to be friendly and peaceful. The question of the undemarcated frontier between Burma and China to which I referred when I last addressed the Members of the Assembly appears to be on its way to a satisfactory solution by means of a Boundary Commission which I hope will meet before very long.

I also look forward within the next few days to receiving a visit from His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal as the guest of the Government of India. You will all, I am sure, join me in extending a hearty welcome to our distinguished guest.

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In the course of my address to the two Houses of the Central Legislature last August I referred to the position of Indians in Zanzibar. Mr. Menon, who was deputed by my Government to this territory in order to study the effect of the legislation in question, presented his report at the end of September. A special meeting of the Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature was summoned in the middle of November to consider the report. In full agreement with the advice of the Committee, which endorsed the recommendations of Mr. Menon, representations were made to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. In view of the close connection between debts and the security on which they have been advanced, we have, acting on Mr. Menon's advice, decided to defer final comment on the Land Alienation Decree until the Commission appointed by the Government of Zanzibar to report on the question of indebtedness has reported. As regards legislation relating to the clove trade, which appears to be of immediate and far-reaching menace to Indian trading interests, we have suggested drastic revision. The comments of the Resident in Zanzibar, to whom the Colonial Office referred Mr. Menon's report, have been recently received. Both the report and the comments will be published shortly. Meanwhile, I would like to give Hon'ble Members the assurance that the Government of India will continue to do their utmost to secure that the interests of the Indian community, which has a long and honourable record of association with Zanzibar, are fully safeguarded.

Hon'ble Members will be aware of the anxiety which leaders of the Indian community in Kenya have for some time voiced regarding legislation to regulate the marketing of Native produce in that territory which they expected would be introduced. Profiting by Mr. Menon's

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deputation to Zanzibar, my Government secured the concurrence of the Colonial Office to Mr. Menon's investigating the operation of similar legislation in Uganda and Tanganyika, where it has been in force for some time, and to assess its probable effect upon Indian interests in Kenya. On the basis of the report which Mr. Menon submitted representations were made early in November. Hon'ble Members will be glad to learn that, pending consideration of Mr. Menon's views, progress with the Bill, which the Government of Kenya had gazetted, has been deferred.

Before leaving the subject of Indians overseas, I wish to refer to the impending change in the office of Agent of the Government of India in South Africa. For domestic reasons Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh has decided to return to India a few months before the expiry of the normal term, which is three years. My Government will be sorry to lose his services. His successor, the Hon'ble Syed Raza Ali, who is known to many of you personally, has already served in the Union as member of a deputation which the Government of India sent there in the difficult days when the Class Areas Bill was under consideration. His previous knowledge of the country and general experience as a man of affairs should enable him to continue with success the work of his distinguished predecessors.

Hon'ble Members cannot but be familiar with, probably many of them have participated in, the discussions and enquiries which are afoot regarding India's educational system. I am not one of those who feel that the present system has served no useful purpose, that it is an unmixed evil. Social and economic changes, not to mention political changes, create conditions which necessitate an overhaul of educational as of other activities. They are signs of a progressive national life ; not neces-

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sarily accusers of what has been or exists. My Government welcome the keen interest which educational problems have aroused throughout India ; the profound attention which they are receiving from Local Governments, from educationists, from leading public personalities. The constitutional framework has made Education the responsibility of Provincial Ministers and local Legislatures. This is as it should be. But education is at the very root of national prosperity. The Government of India cannot, therefore, be disinterested and aloof spectators. They may no longer direct or control ; they can help to provide machinery which will facilitate and promote interchange of ideas and information. For this purpose my Government have decided to revive the Educational Advisory Board from the next financial year. The Assembly will be approached in due course to vote funds for the expenditure involved.

During its last session the Assembly approved the proposal of my Government to locate the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in a more central place. A suitable site has been finally chosen for the purpose, and I hope to lay the foundation-stone of the building next month. The new Institute, when ready, will be within easy reach of this Chamber. Hon'ble Members from all parts of India will thus be able, without the effort or inconvenience of a tedious journey, to familiarise themselves with the work of the Institute for India's staple industry.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has continued its efforts to assist, co-ordinate and guide agricultural research throughout India and its help has been appreciated and utilised to a steadily increasing degree. As you are aware, the Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda States have participated in the work of the Research

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Council and contributed to its funds for some time past. Recently the Travancore, Cochin and Bhopal States have joined the Research Council and undertaken to make suitable contributions to its exchequer. At the present moment perhaps most interest attaches to the steps which have been taken with the object of improving financial return to the cultivator for his enterprise. When I addressed the House last August I referred in some detail to the steps which my Government was taking for improvements in the marketing of agricultural produce. I mentioned, in particular, our intention to initiate, at as early a date as possible, marketing surveys for certain main groups of commodities, *viz.*, cereals, oilseeds, fruit and vegetables, fibres and tobacco, dairy produce and poultry, livestock and livestock products. Since then the Public Service Commission has been engaged on the recruitment of 17 central marketing officers and assistant marketing officers, and these gentlemen are expected to take up their duties under the Marketing Expert early next month. The details of the provincial sections of the scheme have also been completed and work will start almost immediately in the various Provinces. Simultaneously with the commodity surveys, the existing markets both primary and terminal will be studied and also the results of the previous efforts which have been made to organise producers and improve the markets open to them. It gives me great pleasure to add that we have also been assured of the active co-operation of a number of Indian States in the carrying out of this important project and that several of them are appointing special marketing staffs of their own for the purpose. As each survey is completed the practical conclusions to which they are designed to lead will be examined in consultation with Local Governments, so that active development work

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for the improvement of marketing may be undertaken without delay.

For simplicity in administration and the convenience of the public, the Marketing Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been designated Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India and a separate office created and attached to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department.

Another matter which came under consideration at the Provincial Economic Conference in April 1934 was the improvement and development of the dairy industry in India—a question of first-class importance to producers and consumers alike. In these days, when world markets appear to be too well supplied with every kind of grain, the better development of livestock industries is an avenue of progress which cannot be neglected. In any attempt to develop the dairy industry it is particularly important that better methods of marketing and technical improvements in the industry should be introduced simultaneously. This question also has been studied by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and proposals have recently been approved by Government under which the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at Bangalore will be supplemented by a Dairy Industry Institute including a model creamery and a laboratory for research on the physical and chemical properties of Indian milk and its utilisation. Various methods of processing and transporting milk under Indian conditions will be studied experimentally as well as the manufacture of condensed milk, milk powder, casein and other milk products including butter and ghee. In this manner we hope to give a definite stimulus to developments which should improve the supply of milk and milk products to

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the general population, specially in the towns, and be of financial benefit to a large number of Indian agriculturists.

Our general proposals in regard to both the marketing and dairying schemes have already received the approval of the Standing Finance Committee. During the debates on the Sugar Excise Bill which was passed into Law last April Government accepted a recommendation of the Select Committee of this House that adequate provision should be made for scientific and technological research designed to assist the Indian Sugar Industry and thus repeated the assurances given when the Sugar Industry Protection Act was passed in 1932. In fulfilment of this promise my Government have now approved the broad outlines of a scheme for a Central Sugar Institute prepared by the Sugar Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. This Institute is intended to provide for research work in sugar technology, suitable training for scientific and technical staff and for technological assistance and advice to the industry. The Sugar Committee recommended that the Central Institute should be established at Cawnpore and if possible the existing Sugar section of the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute should be expanded to the extent required. Not only is Cawnpore a very suitable Centre for this purpose, but the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute is already the headquarters of the Sugar Technologist and the experimental sugar factory maintained by the Research Council in co-operation with the United Provinces Government. I am glad to say that the provisional concurrence of the United Provinces Government in these proposals has been secured, and we are now at work on details. The need for building up a really efficient Indian sugar industry during the 15-year period for which tariff protection has been given by the Legislature is self-evident, and I need

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hardly emphasise the essential part which scientific research and properly organised technical instruction must play in that process.

In the Posts and Telegraphs Department the past year has seen some notable extensions of the trunk telephone system of India, and my Government intend to pursue their policy of expansion actively, as they feel that this rapid and effective means of communication must be of great benefit to the commercial community. You may be interested to hear that the Department, under the instructions of my Government, is now making arrangements to issue a special series of commemoration stamps in connection with the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor.

The great developments which have taken place in the last two months show the increasing importance of air transport in this country. A new air mail service was inaugurated in December between Karachi and Lahore, which will make connection with the Imperial Airways Service at Karachi and so bring the people of North-West India into closer relations with western countries. An even more striking development has been the duplication, at the beginning of this month, of the Imperial Airways Service from Croydon to Karachi. I am glad to be able to say that this duplication has been supplemented, in a praiseworthy spirit of co-operation, by the companies operating our internal air services. The trans-India service to Calcutta has been duplicated, and the duplication carried on from Calcutta to Rangoon. The feeder services to Madras and to Lahore have also been duplicated. As a result of these expansions, the whole of India has now the benefit of two air mail services a week, and I trust that these increased facilities will be a factor in improving Indian trade.

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You will have gathered from statements which have appeared in the Press that His Majesty's Government have now under consideration a scheme of the very highest importance for the introduction of an Empire Air Mail Service, the adoption of which would bring about far the greatest single advance which has yet been made in the speed and frequency of air services and incidentally bring India into much closer contact with Empire countries, and with other countries lying on or near the Empire air routes. My Government fully realise the extent to which India is concerned in these proposals, and the part it is desirable that she should take in any scheme of Empire air routes. I am not in a position at the moment to say more than that they are giving the scheme their most serious consideration.

In connection with Road Development, two important events have occurred recently. In December last an Indian Roads Congress was held, which was attended by Engineers from all Provinces and important States in India and by a number of business-men, professionally interested in road-making. The object of the Congress was to enable those concerned with the technical aspects of road construction to pool their experience and to learn how the problems which confront them have been attacked and solved in other parts of India. I understand that the general impression amongst those who attended the Congress was that this was successfully achieved, and that it was felt that the meeting should be the first of a series which will keep road engineers in close touch with those methods of road-making which have proved of value and enable them to avoid methods which have proved failures in the past.

The Road Congress was followed in January by the first meeting of the Transport Advisory Council, a body

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of an entirely different character and with a different purpose. It consisted of the Ministers in charge of Roads in the Provinces or their representatives, with one or two technical advisers ; and its function was to arrive at a considered statement of policy which could be generally acted upon by the Provinces for the furtherance of the co-ordinated development of road, rail and other forms of transport, a purpose which all must admit is of the very highest importance. I am glad to be able to say that the Council was able to formulate a statement of policy which covers many, if not all, of the major problems now facing us in connection with this very difficult subject, and that they also indicated definite lines for further investigation. This statement of policy will now be placed by my Government before the Provincial Governments, and I trust that it will not be long before it is in active operation and that it will prove of great economic benefit to the whole country.

While constitutional issues naturally tend to occupy the leading place in our minds at present, the consideration of these should not hamper us in pursuing reforms in other directions. The Whitley Commission, after quoting John Bright's maxim that "the nation in every country dwells in the cottage", added that the well-being of the people must be the primary concern of every Government, whatever its composition. The same is true of every Legislature, and it is satisfactory to find on looking back that, although Legislative Assemblies have varied considerably in composition and outlook, they have all agreed in pursuing legislation designed to protect and ameliorate the condition of labour. We are at present pursuing an important programme of labour legislation, which follows the general lines suggested by the Whitley Commission, and some Bills arising directly or indirectly out of that

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Commission's recommendations will come up for your consideration. One of these Bills is designed mainly to prevent certain abuses relating to the payment of wages and represents a beginning for India of what is known elsewhere as "truck legislation". A Bill for this purpose was introduced in the preceding Assembly and circulated for opinions. After these were received, a motion for Select Committee was tabled, but it was unfortunately not reached. We have used the interval to attempt ourselves to incorporate a number of changes suggested by the opinions, and thereby to facilitate further progress, and the new Bill accordingly represents a revised edition of the old one : I commend it to your careful consideration. A second Labour Bill which has already been introduced involves a revision of the main labour provisions of the Indian Mines Act : it includes proposals for reducing maximum hours and for raising substantially the minimum age for employment in mines.

Two further Bills owe a certain amount of inspiration to the Whitley Commission, although they do not fall within the category of labour legislation, but have a wider aim. They both seek to amend the Civil Procedure Code in respect of the execution of decrees and they are both designed for the protection of debtors. The problem of indebtedness has been very prominently before the public in the recent years, and in some Provinces bold legislative experiments are being essayed in the endeavour to alleviate what is undoubtedly a grave weakness of our economic system. Our proposals are more modest in scope and aim at ensuring that the law cannot be invoked to enforce undue hardship on those who become embarrassed. The most important provision of one of these Bills extends protection from attachment to all salaries not exceeding Rs. 100 per month, while the object of the other is to

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protect honest judgment-debtors from imprisonment for debt.

We are now in the sixth year of the economic depression which fell like a blight on world trade and commerce in 1929. Our hopes of better times have been disappointed too often in the past few years to warrant more than a measure of cautious optimism for the immediate future, but we in India may at least take comfort from the fact that the recovery in our foreign trade which manifested itself last year is still being maintained, while the recent improvement in railway traffic may fairly be regarded as significant of better things to come. But the full restoration of prosperity to India does not depend on India alone. So long as the natural flow of world trade is interrupted, or diverted into artificial channels, for so long will the process of recovery be retarded. It is unfortunate that some of the best of our customers for the raw and semi-manufactured products of India have been driven, by sheer necessity, to adopt expedients to balance their trade exchanges which a few years ago would have been unthinkable. But whatever opinion we may have of the wisdom of systems of quotas and exchange restrictions, we cannot but recognise the stern logic of facts and the practical difficulties which lie in the path to recovery. In particular, the financial embarrassments of Germany have called into being a régime of import and exchange control which may have serious repercussions on India's export trade in many important staples. This is a problem which has been receiving the most earnest consideration of the Government of India. It is a problem which is capable of no facile solution, but I am hopeful that my Government, with the co-operation and advice of the commercial interests mainly concerned, will evolve a solution which will be as satis-

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factory in the ultimate, as in the immediate, interests of India.

As Hon'ble Members of this House are no doubt aware, the Trade Agreement between India and the United Kingdom which was concluded at Ottawa in 1932 related only to such goods as were subject to non-protective or non-concessional rates of duty. There was signed on the 9th of this month a Supplementary Agreement between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom which covers the important field of protected commodities which was left untouched by the main Agreement of 1932. It is in the nature of things that the later Agreement should differ in its character from the earlier one. It relates not so much to the tariff treatment of specific commodities as to the general principles governing the exercise of our present policy of discriminating protection. It is the hope of my Government that the clear and unequivocal statement of their tariff policy contained in the new Agreement will remove any lingering doubts, or suspicions, and help to inaugurate an era of good-will and friendliness with profound benefit to the trade and political relations of Great Britain and India.

The separation of Burma from India is an issue of prime importance from many points of view ; but I would refer here to one aspect of the question only. If and when Burma separates, there will arise the problem of the future trade relations of two countries which, up to the moment of separation, have been in the closest possible economic union. It is of equal importance to both countries that there should be no abrupt discontinuity or dislocation of their mutual trade, and it is therefore essential to provide against such a contingency. You will, I think, agree that it would be unreasonable to pass on to

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two responsible Governments a ready-made régime which would fetter in perpetuity, or for any considerable period, their powers and discretion to formulate, and put into operation, a tariff policy in consonance with their own particular circumstances. At the same time the period of transition and adaptation to new conditions will be a difficult one, and I believe that it will be a service to both countries if there is prescribed a régime governing the mutual trade of India and Burma for a limited period after separation. Within that limited period it should be possible for both Governments to take stock of their position and to negotiate freely, and on their own responsibility, a fresh agreement in the best interests of those whom they represent. The nature of the temporary régime is the subject of conversations between my Government and representatives of the Government of Burma. In a matter of so vital importance to commerce and industry in India, we have sought the advice of representatives of those interests, and the views which they have expressed will receive the fullest consideration of my Government in the negotiation of any agreement or convention.

In speeches I have made since the publication of the Joint Select Committee's Report I have expressed myself generally on the scheme of constitutional reform, but I feel that in addressing Hon'ble Members on this subject I have a special message to deliver, in order that I may give expression to thoughts on which my mind has dwelt far longer than is perhaps realised. My association with India now dates back so many years that I can without presumption lay before you reflections based on my own experience. For that reason, speaking as the head of the administration in India, I hope I may be allowed to strike a more personal note than is usual in these addresses.

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I would ask you in the first place when you turn over in your thoughts the scheme of constitutional reform now embodied in a Bill to fix your attention on the broad lines on which it is planned. Place on one side for the moment the arguments and discussions of recent years, the evidence and the memoranda, the documents and the reports, in short all the literature of the reforms. Free your minds of these, and let your thoughts centre on the great principles which have increasingly asserted themselves, until they have dominated the scheme. They are the foundations on which the scheme is built, Provincial Autonomy in British India and a Federation comprising the whole Continent. I can remember the time when Federation was discussed as a visionary dream, something in the remote future, something distant and scarcely practicable. Gradually it has taken shape, it has come nearer. Hon'ble Members with as close a knowledge of India's political history as my own will remember that the authors of the Joint Report of 1917 were not content with sketching an immediate scheme of reforms. They let their minds run on into what the future might bring. What was it they saw before them, when they assumed the mantle of prophecy ? Let me take their own words : "India was to be a sisterhood of self-governing States, presided over by a Central Government occupied with matters of common interest, external and internal. The units were not to be the Provinces alone. With them there were to be associated the Indian States anxious to contribute to the common service, but sensitive to maintain their own individuality." In 1917 these thoughts were expressed as a conception of the future, something to aim at, something not yet within reach. But where do we stand now ?

Never should we forget the contribution of the Princes at the first Round Table Conference when they

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declared their readiness to enter an All-India Federation. The appeal of this great principle was irresistible. The Princes rose to the occasion. What was till then scarcely more than a picture of a possible future was transformed at once into something substantial on which to build. Here at last were the real foundations on which to construct a scheme embodying the essential unity of India. Look back over India's history to the time before the British connection established itself. This dream of a dominion extending its authority from one end of the Continent to the other from age to age seized the mind and gripped the imagination of the great rulers of the past. We, the British in India, have brought peace and ordered government over a long period of years. Under our hand the political life of the country has grown and expanded. New ideas of public and personal liberty have been encouraged and have taken root. But in a Federation of all India I see the coping stone of British achievement. I can confidently assert that this ideal with its necessary corollary of Provincial Autonomy should command the support of all, both British and Indian, who honestly desire the advancement of India in the successive stages of her political development.

But if this is our objective, how is it to be reached ? The answer will be found in the Report of the Select Committee and in the Bill presented by His Majesty's Government to Parliament. Years of thought and careful investigation have been given to the preparation of the scheme in all its multifarious and complicated details. It is no easy road that leads to Federation. The higher we set our aim, the more numerous the difficulties to surmount. But that is no reason why we should be deterred. Do not imagine for a moment that it is possible to construct so great a scheme of political advance with as much ease and exactness as an architect

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can command in planning or altering a house. There are many diversities of taste, many varieties of ambition, of which account has to be taken when a new constitution is planned. Let us as practical men recognise that in any large and general question differences of opinion must exist. Take the question of reservations and safeguards, to which especially Indian criticism has been directed. In a sense these safeguards are themselves a measure of the advance intended. Were the transfer of power contemplated by His Majesty's Government so small, so exiguous a thing as critics are apt to suggest, the need for safeguards would scarcely have been raised. It is because the transfer of power is real, both in range and in substance, that caution demands safeguards to carry us safely from one system of government to another. Is the inclusion of safeguards an unreasonable or unfriendly act? Surely this would be a narrow and a prejudiced view. We owe an acknowledgment to the Select Committee for helping to put the constitutional safeguards, for instance, the special powers of the Governor-General and the Governors, in their true light as the necessary complement, in present conditions, to responsible government, without which it could have small hope of success.

In other directions also the scheme is criticised. For instance, it is suggested in some quarters that a sinister motive underlies the substitution of indirect for direct election to the Federal Legislature. It is no secret that I personally and my Government supported the principle of direct election. That does not mean that we do not recognise that there are cogent arguments on the other side. After balancing the considerations the Committee decided in favour of indirect election. But mark their words. They have said in the most explicit terms that they do not think it possible for Parliament to lay down

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today the exact method of constituting the Central Legislature for any long period of time. They express the hope that, after time has passed for experience to be gained, the Federal Legislature, if Indian opinion thinks modification is required, will lay its own proposals before Parliament. We cannot anticipate the decision Parliament will reach on this important question ; but advocate as I have always been of direct election, I do not feel that what the Committee wrote on the subject should leave Indians with a sense of grievance.

Some of those who criticise the proposals admit that Indian disagreements have contributed to the sufficiently formidable difficulty of framing a constitution on so vast a scale. Undoubtedly these disagreements have influenced the form of the proposals. But be it remembered to the credit of His Majesty's Government that they have at no time allowed disagreements among Indians to impede the paths of reform. Of this no better illustration could be given than the Communal Decision undertaken by His Majesty's Government solely for the reason that the communities were unable to agree among themselves.

A constitutional scheme prepared in these conditions may not be ideally perfect. Were that the test to be applied, all human action would be impeded and no human institution would be commendable. But I am satisfied that the scheme gives to India the opportunity, to which she so earnestly aspires, to mould her future nearer to her heart's desire. Parliament may make modifications in this or that direction during the period while the scheme is under their consideration in the ensuing months. Let Indian leaders work to secure changes or improvements on points to which they attach importance. But I counsel them in all earnestness to

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take the scheme as the only path likely in any period of time that we can yet foresee to bring within their reach the great ideal of an All-India Federation, my faith in which I have just expressed. If, as I confidently hope, the proposals of His Majesty's Government are accepted by Parliament, on whom lies the final responsibility, I look to this country to respond with no uncertain voice to the opportunity offered. It has always been my ambition to see India take her position on terms of complete equality with the other members of the British Commonwealth. As her problems differ from those of other parts of the Empire, so too may her constitution take a form different from constitutions elsewhere. But I am convinced that the path to Federation is the path that leads to India's sure advance. The constitutional scheme that takes India on that road is a scheme well worth the exercise of her best exertions.

With these words I leave you to your labours, and it is my earnest prayer that a Divine Providence may in the momentous days that lie ahead of us, guide us all in the discharge of our several responsibilities.

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**LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE  
IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AT NEW DELHI.**

19th February 1935. In laying the Foundation stone of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at New Delhi on the 19th February 1935, His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—It has been a very great pleasure to Her Excellency and myself to be present here this afternoon—but that pleasure is greatly marred by the regrettable absence owing to indisposition of my old friend*

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and colleague Sir Fazl-i-Husain, who has for the past five years had charge of the Department of Agriculture under the Government of India. During the period of years during which he and I have been closely associated, he has set on foot many projects which have for their purpose the further improvement of the economic condition of all those who are engaged in agriculture, and I trust he may be spared to see the fruition of his efforts in the coming years. I regret exceedingly that in a short time, owing to the termination of his period of office, I shall be deprived of his constant and valued assistance, but I am delighted to find myself associated with him today in what I hope will always be remembered as a perpetual memorial to his great work for the industry of agriculture. We are assisting at what might be well described as the re-birth of a great institution. In its long history of 30 years, Pusa has rendered great services to India. Many improved varieties of crops produced at Pusa are now grown extensively over large areas in the country. Pusa wheats are famous not only over the wheat-growing parts of Northern India, but have also achieved distinction outside India. At its Sugarcane Sub-station at Coimbatore varieties of sugarcane have been evolved which in their yield and disease-resisting qualities have rivalled the famous canes of Java. During the last decade the training of post-graduate students has formed part of its activities, and since 1923 it has thrown out, what might almost be called, a daughter Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at Bangalore with Farms and Sub-stations of its own. The workers at Pusa and its Sub-stations have conducted research in almost every branch of agricultural science which has been of benefit to India and whose value has been recognised by scientific institutions all over the world. But no institution, however devoted its workers may be, can rise to the full height of

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its utility if it works in an atmosphere of isolation, and this, as has already been rightly pointed out, has been the great disability from which the Institute has so far suffered. Perhaps in the early years of the present century, this disadvantage was not so apparent as it is now. In recent years Indian opinion has demanded with increasing insistence, and rightly so, that research institutions dealing with problems affecting the people should be in living touch with the main streams of national life. Here in Delhi, where at some time or other during the year men from all parts of India, whose business is agriculture or commerce or politics, come together, the Institute will find that living contact with Indian life which it has hitherto lacked.

Research is a long business, especially in the domain of agricultural science ; and it is an expensive business. It is in the fitness of things that Provinces, with their well-developed Departments of Agriculture with a long history of achievement behind them, should be proud of what they have done in this field by their own efforts. At the same time there are problems of fundamental research which it is not possible for each Province, with its comparatively limited resources, to undertake. Nor is it advisable that in the investigation of such problems there should be duplication of effort and, therefore, waste of energy and money. Progress of agricultural research is retarded, and even prejudicially affected by lack of co-ordination. In a country of the size of India where there are several research centres far distant from each other, it is particularly necessary that some machinery should exist to secure interchange of ideas and co-ordination of effort. These were some of the considerations that led the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India to recommend—and the Government of India to accept the recom-

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at New Delhi.*

mendation—that a Central Council of Agricultural Research be established. The Council has proved of considerable utility to the country at large during its short period of existence, and received remarkable co-operation from the Provinces. Similarly it is my hope that this Institute, which we are inaugurating today, will be regarded by the Provinces as an integral part of their agricultural organisation, and that they would refer to it problems which are not of purely local interest or importance and which they consider suitable for investigation at a central place. I also hope that now that the Institute will be more easily accessible, the isolation of the past will give place to frequent interchange of visits between the research workers at the Institute and those in the Universities and in the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

I have hinted at the quickening, with the passage of years since Lord Curzon laid the foundation stone of the Institute at Pusa in 1905, of public interest in all forms of research. I have also watched during the many years that I have spent in India the gradual awakening of a sense of responsibility among the public towards institutions of public utility. Government are discharging their responsibility for the welfare of the agricultural population to the best of their ability, but the problems of agricultural research in a country like India are so vast that only a fringe of them can be touched by the funds that Government are able to spare. I can assure you that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see that in the financing of agricultural research Government effort is supplemented by private benefaction. In this connection I may perhaps be permitted to throw out a suggestion. Although the energies of an Agricultural Research Institute are largely directed to the solution of specific problems in applied science, questions

*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at New Delhi.*

of purely scientific interest constantly arise in the course of its work ; indeed it has often been found that, to complete the investigation of a particular problem of practical importance, it is necessary to conduct research of no inconsiderable magnitude on some purely scientific issue. It is, therefore, desirable that such an institution as this should constantly bear in mind the necessity for close liaison with research workers in the various branches of pure science and that it should be able to offer facilities to additional scientific workers, whose efforts would supplement those of its permanent staff. Co-operation for this purpose should be rendered possible to a greatly enhanced extent at the new Institute, with its central situation, its modern equipment and the existence of amenities which were lacking at Pusa. But, while the Institute may be able to offer the necessary facilities for the conduct of research in its laboratories, some system of research fellowships will be needed in order that experienced scientific workers may find it financially possible to devote time to such problems. A number of young men return every year from Europe and America after taking Research Degrees, but many of them do not at once find the employment adapted to the full utilisation of their training. Any scheme which would make it possible for some of the best of them to devote their abilities to agricultural research would be of real benefit to India. This is a direction in which private philanthropy could largely help by endowing, as in other progressive countries, Research Fellowships tenable at the Central Institute.

I shall not detain you any longer. I am fully confident that India, which is a predominantly agricultural country, will derive material gain and benefit of real value from the Institute which I have great pleasure in inaugurating today.

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*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND JUBILEE.

Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon presided over the Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee on 7th March 1935 and read the following messages :—

From Her Majesty the Queen :—

Buckingham Palace.

I have learned with great pleasure that Your Excellency will preside in March at the Jubilee Meeting of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, of which I am Patroness.

I would wish to take this opportunity of asking you to express to those present at this auspicious Meeting my continued keen interest in all that affects the welfare and happiness of the Fund, and to convey to one and all my warm thanks for their loyal and ever ready support of the great movement which for fifty years has rendered invaluable help to the Women of India.

May all success attend the labours of the Fund in the future, as in the past.

MARY R. I.

From Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava :—

19, TEDWORTH SQUARE,

S. W.-3.

14th February 1935.

Her Excellency the Lady Willingdon has kindly given me this opportunity of addressing a few words to the Central Council in the Jubilee Year of that which is still known as the Dufferin Fund.

The National Association for Supplying Medical Aid by Women to the Women of India was founded in 1885—and as I look back to the initial difficulties which the Association had to face, I now realise more clearly than

*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

I have hitherto done that, except for the generous financial aid supplied, the actual success of the Movement is due to the unexpected way in which the Indian Women came forward to take up medicine as a profession. From that time the supply of students has never failed, though it must have required remarkable courage and determination in those young women who elected to leave their home and the sunny climate of their own land to study in the more gloomy atmosphere of English, Scotch and Irish Medical Schools, and finally to take English qualifications and a place on the English Medical Register.

These pioneer women had their reward when in 1913 the Indian Government established a Women's Medical Service for 25 fully qualified Women doctors, a number which has now been increased to 50. Thus has their achievement been crowned, and I think they may further claim the Lady Hardinge College as a result of their professional zeal and success.

At this College Indian Women students can now qualify, and it is greatly to their advantage that they can do so in their own country, though I trust that the system which has been so successful these last 50 years will continue to be followed to a certain extent. Indian Women students can now qualify in India, but that they should spend some time in Great Britain so as to acquaint themselves with the methods, the equipment, the discipline of our older established Hospitals is, I am sure, very desirable for them.

I must also express a fervent hope that fully qualified Indian and English women doctors working in sisterly and professional friendship will for many a long year share the great work which remains to be accomplished. Fifty years is, after all, but a beginning of that which

*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

this National Association set out to do, namely, to supply every woman in India with all that medical skill can do for her health and for that of her children.

As President of the United Kingdom Branch of the Dufferin Fund I retain a link with the work of the Association which I greatly value, and with all my heart I wish it God speed.

*HARIOT DUFFERIN AND AVA.*

His Excellency the Viceroy thereafter made the following speech :—

*Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—* Of the many invitations I have received to speak on public occasions, I can recall hardly any which I have accepted with greater good-will than that which brings me here to address you today. The present is your fiftieth Annual General Meeting and so marks the Jubilee of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, which you are met here to celebrate. Let me assure you, at the outset, that it gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to be here today and to share your legitimate feelings of satisfaction and pride on so notable and auspicious an occasion.

Fifty years is a long time in the life of any organisation, and its completion affords a natural opportunity for those who compose it to cast an eye not only backwards on the past but forwards on the future. In the case of a benevolent society such as yours, that process can bring you no searchings of heart or conscience, for your labours have been devoted wholly to the alleviation of suffering among the women of India at large ; and if there is dissatisfaction at all, it can only be that your resources for such public service have not always been adequate to the immense field of opportunity confronting you. Even that dissatisfaction, moreover, can only

*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

serve, on such an occasion as this, to stimulate your minds to consider how you can, in the new era opening up before you, extend, and, if possible, improve upon, the great record of public service for which India owes you so much, and of which I today am glad to be able to make public and unstinted acknowledgment.

Your Society has the unique honour of having as its Patron the Queen-Empress of India, and, as its Lady President, the wife of the Viceroy for the time being. That association of names and offices is far from being fortuitous or meaningless. On the contrary, it has both historical interest and present-day significance. When the Countess of Dufferin came out to India as the wife of the then Viceroy, she was specially charged by Queen Victoria to do all that might be possible to help her daughters, the women of India, in their hour of need. Queen Victoria had been told, during personal interviews, by two famous pioneer medical women, Dr. Elizabeth Bielby and Dr. Mary Scharlieb, of the terrible and unrelieved sufferings of Indian women during sickness. So well did Lady Dufferin carry out the wishes of her Sovereign and so great was the enthusiasm she brought to her task, that in three years she collected in India seven lakhs of rupees, of which five and a half were invested in buildings, grants-in-aid and scholarship. During the same period the United Kingdom Branch collected three lakhs of rupees. Your records bear witness how devotedly Lady Dufferin laboured for the Fund during the whole five years of her stay in this country. Over your meetings which were held once a week, Her Excellency, as a rule, presided. It is not the least of your reasons for rejoicing today that this lady of beloved and revered memory is still amongst your most active workers and is able to preside at meetings of the United Kingdom Branch. I

*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

am glad to know that your message of jubilee greetings, which she has so well earned, must be now in her hands. In that homage and gratitude your founder will find a reward which many may envy but none will grudge her. It is not too much to say that the successors of Queen Victoria and Lady Dufferin have faithfully followed the high example set them, and have been unwearied in their efforts to see that there should be no slackening or falling-off. The messages of congratulation and greeting from Her Majesty and Lady Dufferin, to which you must have listened with so much pleasure, show that the trust handed down from early days is in capable and willing hands. How well that trust has been always discharged the meeting at which we are present here today furnishes evidence of a kind that is not open to dispute.

The first general meeting of the Fund was held in Calcutta in January 1886. On that occasion His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin and Ava presided and made a memorable speech. One sentence from it is worth my repeating here :—

“ The sickness of a man indeed may mean loss of employment and many distressing consequences to him ; but the ill-health of the women of a household is tantamount to perpetual domestic wretchedness and discomfort as well as a degradation in the strength and virility of subsequent generations ”.

These are arresting words, and I have no reason to think that their import is lost on you any more today than it was on your predecessors in the past, or will be on your successors in the future.

This is no occasion on which to weary you with statistical details as to the progress and success of your work, though in this case they have a vital human interest denied to many other fields of activity. When

*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

your Fund came into existence 50 years ago, it was truly said that unless you provided women doctors, a large portion of the women of India must go without doctors at all. It is worth while to mention, then, that, whereas 50 years ago the Association knew of only 24 women doctors practising in the whole of India and Burma, we have 50 years later 26 qualified women working in the Zenana hospitals of Delhi and New Delhi alone. The Association of Medical Women in India now has about 300 members, and it is reasonably certain that there cannot be less than 700 registered women doctors in the country. The progress in the medical education of women during the 50 years of your existence provides solid ground for present satisfaction and future hope, and for this result the pioneer work done by the Countess of Dufferin's Fund deserves its full measure of credit. It is difficult to overstate the changes that have resulted. As medical knowledge and the art of nursing grew, prejudices were broken down and women patients came forward in ever-increasing number to claim relief. We have here in New Delhi a notable monument to progress in the shape of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, which aptly shows how earnestly supply has endeavoured to keep pace with demand. The pity is that funds have not been available in proportion. The year 1914 saw the institution of the Women's Medical Service, financed by a grant from the Government of India, but as an integral part of the Dufferin Fund. This has assured to the Dufferin Hospitals a staff of highly qualified medical women and has effected a great improvement in nursing and equipment, while the financial relief so afforded has enabled local committees to devote their money to other needed improvements. The broad facts may be left to speak for themselves. Suffice it to say that in 1914 there were 13,271

*Countess of Dufferin Fund Jubilee.*

patients in hospitals staffed by W. M. S. women, while in 1933 the figure was 47,507.

And now as to the future, which is largely dependent on finance. Your Society, in common with others, has suffered heavily from the decline in the rate of interest earned by your securities. The Government of India, beset with their own financial difficulties, were compelled to cut down their grant to you by Rs. 40,000 per annum. The loss was inevitable, but I confess I can think of few causes which, with the advent of better times, should have a stronger claim than yours on Government's improved finances. But it will not be enough to bring things up to the former standard. There must be expansion, otherwise there is the risk of slackening and deterioration. Your needs are many—rebuilding of hospitals, more officers, better equipment, and improved facilities for training—all these cry aloud for support. I am happy to think that your Association has been specially selected as one of the beneficiaries of the King-Emperor's Jubilee Fund, for which I have recently launched an appeal, and of which your Lady President is acting as Chief Organiser. It is my earnest wish and hope that the heartiness of the response to that appeal will be commensurate with the excellence of the objects to which the proceeds will be devoted, and will enable you in the years to come to surpass even the 50 years of devoted and admirable public work which you are proud to be able to put to your credit today.

It remains for me only to deliver to you a brief but heartfelt message on this notable occasion. On behalf of all the suffering thousands of India's women who have benefited from your 50 years of work, let me say a very sincere "Thank You" for the past, and an equally earnest "God Speed" for the future. No good citizen will wish to offer you less either in the way of thanks

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Masonic Temple, New Delhi.*

or good wishes. In these days of enthusiasm for democracy and democratic institutions, it is not out of place to remember how abreast of the times you always have been in this respect. Anyone who chooses to pay the modest sum of Rs. 5 per annum is entitled to attend your Annual General Meeting and to vote on your proceedings and policy. Here surely is a truly democratic institution which deserves far wider support than it has yet found, the more so as it labours disinterestedly and unweariedly for the public good in a way to which few others can lay claim. If the duties and responsibilities of democracy were kept as much before the public mind as its supposed privileges, you would have less cause to complain of lack of public sympathy or of the financial support which you so urgently need for the increasing demands which are bound to be made on you. These demands, I cannot doubt, will be met in the same high and humane spirit which has animated you during your whole public life of 50 years. Let me once more offer you my sincere thanks for the past, my earnest good wishes for the future and my warm congratulations on the attainment of your Jubilee.

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LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE  
MASONIC TEMPLE, NEW DELHI.

4th April 1935. His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Masonic Temple, New Delhi, on the 4th April 1935 :—

*Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Worshipful Brother President and Brethren,—It is unnecessary for me to say more than a very few words on this interesting occasion after listening to the admirable speech which has just been delivered by our Worshipful Brother*

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Masonic Temple, New Delhi.*

President who has given us the reasons for the inception of the scheme of building a Masonic Temple in New Delhi.

But this I can say with all sincerity, that I am very grateful for this opportunity of meeting brother Masons here today, grateful too that you have thought well to give me the principal part in the ceremony which we are met to perform this afternoon.

I am probably one of the oldest Masons among this company, but it is true that owing to other occupations I have had little time to take much active and executive part during the 35 years since my initiation in all those matters that pertain to the craft.

But I am a sincere supporter of this great institution to which we belong and whose influence and activities have done much in its endeavours to attain peace and goodwill to the world at large, and sympathy and help to many who are in difficulty and trouble.

Above all I am glad to be present for the reason that the first principle of Free Masonry is loyalty to our Sovereign, that there is no racial discrimination amongst us, and that we can all meet together whatever our race or colour for the common purpose of striving to secure better understanding and a bond of unity among all people, friendship and mutual trust between our races in India, which is a purpose for which I have always striven.

You have told us, Brother President, that already the sum of Rs. 80,000 has been received from generous friends towards the erection of this building. May I express the sincere hope that shortly you will be able to secure the full amount that you require in order that you may raise a building on this site, which will be an adornment to our Capital City, a worthy Temple in which for long years in the future will be carried on the great service of Free Masonry.

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO THE  
TROOPS AT QUETTA.

5th July 1935. His Excellency the Viceroy read the following message from His Majesty the King-Emperor prior to addressing the troops at Quetta on Friday, the 5th July 1935 :—

“ From all accounts I have received of disaster at Quetta, I have been deeply impressed by measures taken with such promptitude and efficiency to relieve distress and help sufferers. Please convey to all concerned, both men and women, my heartfelt thanks and admiration for their splendid efforts in meeting such awful tragedy.”

The Viceroy then made the following speech :—

*General Karslake, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Quetta Garrison,—*I consider it a very real privilege today to have this opportunity of paying my tribute to you all in my position of Governor-General of India for the discipline, courage and devotion to duty you have shown during the past few weeks since that night when, with appalling suddenness, the city of Quetta and the surrounding areas were overwhelmed by an earthquake shock which caused a loss of life and destruction of property probably without parallel in the history of our country. This is not the time or occasion for me to refer to splendid efforts of both men and women to undertake any duty or service for the relief of the sufferers and refugees. My purpose today is to give a short message to every officer and man who is on parade.

I wish to express, as head of the Government of India, my most deep and grateful thanks to you, one and all, for your splendid service at this awful crisis. It can truly be said that the Army in India, both British and Indian, has once again proved itself worthy of its history and tradition.

I should like to add this one word in conclusion. It is difficult to refer to particular individuals when all have done so well. But this morning I think I may make

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's address to No. III Indian Wing  
of the Royal Air Force at Karachi.*

special mention of one name, that of your Commanding Officer General Karslake, and thank him on behalf of the Government of India for displaying a spirit of leadership which gave confidence to all who worked under him and for showing a power of initiative and organisation which diminished the dangers of the very much graver consequences which might have resulted from this terribly sudden catastrophe.

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO  
No. III INDIAN WING OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE  
AT KARACHI.

His Excellency the Viceroy in addressing the No. III Indian 7th July 1935. Wing of the Royal Air Force at Karachi, on the 7th July 1935, made the following speech :—

*Wing Commander Slessor, Officers and Airmen of No. III Indian Wing,—I am very glad to have this opportunity today of paying my tribute to you all, in my position as Governor-General of India, for the way in which you faced your recent terrible experiences in Quetta. I deplore very deeply the heavy casualties suffered by No. III Indian Wing of the Royal Air Force, and I sympathise with you sincerely in the loss of your comrades.*

Notwithstanding the nerve-shattering experience in which your branch of the Service suffered more heavily than any other, the way in which you met and overcame the effects of the catastrophe was magnificent. I have been told of the rapidity with which you set to work to extricate your comrades from the ruins of your quarters, and subsequently to save property from the wreckage. The speed with which you got your damaged Aircraft into action again was remarkable and proved of the greatest value. The Government of India are truly grateful for the splendid service which the Aircraft in

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*Address of Welcome from the Allahabad Municipal Board.*

Quetta gave in reporting the condition of outlying districts immediately after the Earthquake, in flying emergent requirements to Quetta, and in evacuating casualties.

Those of you who are married have been parted from your families, because unfortunately it is impossible to provide accommodation for them at present. As one who during long years of public service has always realised how important, how necessary it is to have his wife at his side, I assure you that I and my Government are fully alive to the situation, and we will do what we can to relieve this hardship as soon as it is possible.

Let me express to you all in conclusion my admiration of the fine spirit you have displayed throughout the disaster, and warmly congratulate you on maintaining to the full that spirit of courage and initiative which has always been a tradition of your Service.

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#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE ALLAHABAD MUNICIPAL BOARD.

24th July  
1935.

His Excellency the Viceroy received an Address of Welcome from the Allahabad Municipal Board on the 24th July 1935 and replied in the following terms :—

*Members of the Allahabad Municipal Board,—*It has given Lady Willingdon and myself peculiar pleasure to receive today the address of welcome which you have presented to us on the occasion of our first visit to your important and historic town. Not only does your address welcome us in very charming terms but I observe with gratitude that you have been most considerate in avoiding controversial and intricate problems with which in the short time at my disposal I should have found difficulty in dealing. It is a matter of genuine regret to both of us that we have not been able to devote more than the inside of a day to a city which most certainly deserves a longer

*Address of Welcome from the Allahabad Municipal Board.*

visit but short as our stay is we are more than glad that it has permitted us to receive your address and to have an opportunity of meeting the prominent non-officials to whom is entrusted the responsible task of caring for the comfort and welfare of the townspeople. That responsibility I learn your Board has been discharging with honesty and integrity of purpose and above all in an atmosphere generally unclouded by friction or internal dissension. I know of nothing that clogs so disastrously the machinery of administration as internal jealousies and disharmony, and I sincerely trust, gentlemen, that you will long preserve the reputation which you are happy in possessing for harmony and concord. The shadow of communal dissension and ill-will is hanging at this moment over India and it is the duty of all those who have the welfare of their land at heart to show courage, wisdom and above all tolerance towards all men so that this evil miasma may be dispelled and India may enter on her new constitution with the omens favourable and the course set fair. I appeal to you all, and through you to the citizens of a great city, to join hands with those who are striving for the country's good in creating better feelings and greater concord among the communities of India. Never in her history was there greater need for such united effort.

You refer with pride to the amenities which this city of Allahabad can offer and to the prominent place which it occupies among the cities of India, and, gentlemen, I believe that your pride is justified. The importance of your town has been enhanced, as you have remarked, by the establishment of the Bamrauli Aerodrome, and although your pride may be tinged with sadness for those reasons to which you have made delicate allusion in your address, you can rejoice in the thought that you are citizens of no mean city, a great University centre, a seat of learn-

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

ing and a home of that literary and scientific culture for which India has long been renowned.

Gentlemen, once again I thank you most sincerely for the genuine welcome you have given us and for an address which believe me, we have very deeply appreciated. If it should be my fortune to visit this town once more before I leave these shores, I am confident that I shall find that clean hearth and clear fire which you have promised me.

In conclusion I gratefully acknowledge the sentiments of devotion and loyalty to His Majesty to which you have given much feeling expression.

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#### HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO THE COMBINED LEGISLATURES.

16th September 1935.      His Excellency the Viceroy addressed the Members of both Houses of the Legislature on Monday, the 16th September 1935, in the following terms :—

*Gentlemen,—Once again it is my privilege as Viceroy to address Hon'ble Members of both Houses and to give a brief review of the general conditions affecting India, but before doing so, I wish to make a brief reference of a personal character.*

Before I shall have an opportunity of addressing you again, my Government will have said farewell to a valued colleague, and the Upper House to one of its most distinguished Members. Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode's term of office as Commander-in-Chief has been one of the most eventful within living memory for the Army in India, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying my heartfelt tribute to the value of the outstanding services that he has rendered to India.

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

In addressing the Members of the Legislative Assembly in January last I expressed the hope that Local Governments and local Committees would receive the support of all communities in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty the King-Emperor to the Throne, and that the Princes and people of India would once more give proof of their devotion to the Crown and of their sympathy for those in need by responding to my appeal on behalf of a Fund to commemorate the occasion in an appropriate manner. I am glad to be able today to acknowledge how magnificently my expectations have been fulfilled. From every part of India my Government received reports of the genuine and spontaneous exhibitions of enthusiasm which accompanied the Jubilee Celebrations not only in the larger towns but also in small and remote villages. The efforts of a few misguided people here and there to mar the occasion only served to show how few such persons were, and how out of sympathy with the general spirit of the people of India, who everywhere were eager to show their loyalty and devotion to the Crown. The response to my Appeal has been equally gratifying and it is evidence of the generosity of the Princes and people of India that the total collections for the Silver Jubilee Fund amount to the splendid sum of over Rs. 125 lakhs. This result could not have been achieved without good organisation and much well-directed efforts, and to all those, throughout the length and breadth of the land, who have contributed in any way to the success of the Fund I accord my grateful thanks. It will, I am certain, be a cause of great satisfaction to His Majesty the King-Emperor to know that his Silver Jubilee will for all time be associated in India with so great an increase in the resources of institutions which bring relief to those in sickness and distress.

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

I now turn to Foreign Affairs. As regards Nepal, I would only say that 1934 added still another year to the long tale of unbroken friendship and mutual confidence which are traditional between India and this her only Asiatic neighbour within the Himalayan wall.

In another frontier field there are interesting developments to record. As the result of an agreement concluded with His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir in March last, the Civil and Military Administration of the trans-Indus portion of the Gilgit Wazarat was taken over by the Government of India on the 1st of last month. The change, without diminishing the suzerain rights of His Highness, places undivided local control in the hands of the Government of India on an important sector of the Indian frontier. I am happy to be in a position to assure the House that the reorganisation has been completed without additional expenditure to Indian revenues.

Beyond the Gilgit frontier stands Sinkiang or Chinese Turkestan, the westernmost Province of China. In this Province the situation continues to be obscure and uncertain. My Government learnt with concern of the distress caused by the recent civil turmoil in this friendly and important Province and the ensuing dislocation of the ancient commerce between India and China by the Karakoram passes. The Indian traders in Sinkiang have unfortunately suffered much hardship and loss both to life and property, but there are signs that the efforts of His Majesty's Consulate at Kashgar in their behalf are bearing fruit. Indeed one of the most affecting tributes of loyalty to the King-Emperor came from these very traders, who despite all hardships and losses in this distant land combined to contribute a sum of several thousand rupees to His Majesty's Silver Jubilee fund. Our sympathies are with the local Sinkiang authorities

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

and with the Central Chinese Government in their task of maintaining order and control, a matter of no little neighbourly concern to India.

My Government have under active consideration the question of the improvement of trade facilities between India and Afghanistan in the light of the report of the Trade Delegation which visited that country from India in the spring of last year. In particular it is our desire, if possible, to devise means of lessening the difficulties to Indian Trade created by the recent adoption by the Afghan Government of a State trade monopoly system.

His Majesty's Government and the Government of India have special relations of long standing with the independent rulers of the States on the Arab Coast of the Persian Gulf and have accepted special responsibilities towards them. In order to strengthen these ties and in view of the fact that the Arab Coast has acquired a new and increasing importance as a result of the establishment of the Imperial Airways route on that coast and of recent commercial developments, His Majesty's Government, with the concurrence of His Excellency the Shaikh of Bahrain, have now transferred to Bahrain their naval stations hitherto existing at Henjam and Basidu. His Highness the Sultan of Muscat, Their Excellencies the Shaikhs of Kuwait and Bahrain, and certain of the Trucial Coast Shaikhs have concluded agreements with the British Government; which facilitate the passage of the aircraft which form a link of ever-increasing importance in the Empire chain of communications—a link in which the Government of India have a vital interest. I shall always remember with pleasure my meetings with certain of the Arab rulers in the course of my recent journeys by air through their territories. Their loyalty to their ancient

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

associations with the British Government and the Government of India was on that occasion expressed in the most marked manner, and they may rest assured that no Viceroy in India can fail to have their interest at heart.

The frontier Province of Baluchistan has been the focus of world-wide sympathy on account of the terrible earthquake which, as Hon'ble Members are aware, recently overtook the city of Quetta and the surrounding areas and which caused a loss of life and destruction of property probably unprecedented in the history of this country. The outstanding feature of the scene of suffering and devastation that followed this catastrophe was the prompt and effective manner in which the troops of the Quetta Garrison—officers and men—were organised for relief and rescue work. I had the privilege of paying them all my personal tribute of admiration during my recent visit to Quetta. I now take this opportunity again of expressing on behalf of the Government of India and myself our heartfelt sympathy with all those who have suffered and our deep gratitude to those, including the various relief organisations, who have spared no efforts to alleviate their suffering and losses ; and in this connection I wish particularly to bring publicly to your notice the magnificent work that was done by the ladies of Quetta for whose untiring and devoted service it is difficult to find words of sufficient praise and appreciation. I must also make mention of the most generous way in which Local Governments, particularly of the Punjab, Bombay and the North-West Frontier Province, have responded to our appeal for help with staff, money and medical and other facilities, and we are indebted to them and their officers for the efficient organisations set up by them for the reception and relief of refugees. My very sincere thanks are also due for the generous and world-

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wide sympathy that has been shown in response to my appeal for funds. It is evident that the damage which has been caused amounts to several crores of rupees, and we shall need all the money we can collect if we are to be able effectively to relieve the thousands who have been rendered homeless and destitute.

The problem of the delimitation of the undemarcated frontier between Burma and China to which I referred when I last addressed this House has advanced a stage nearer to solution. As the result of an agreement reached between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of India on the one hand and the Chinese Government on the other hand by an Exchange of Notes, a Joint Boundary Commission, with a neutral Chairman nominated by the League of Nations, has been appointed to determine the Southern section of the undemarcated boundary between Burma and Yunnan. The League has been fortunate in securing the services of Colonel Iselin of the Swiss Army as Chairman of the Commission. This officer has the experience of having successfully and impartially determined the frontier between Iraq and Syria, and is thus particularly well qualified to preside over the labours of the Commission on the Indo-Chinese frontier. The Commission hopes to assemble by the 1st December next and start operations immediately.

Whilst on the subject of Burma I would remind Hon'ble Members that when I addressed them in January last, I mentioned that the question of the trade relations between India and Burma after separation was the subject of conversations between my Government and the Government of Burma. These negotiations have now been concluded and the agreement which has been reached has been embodied in the Draft Orders in Council which

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were recently published for general information. These Draft Orders will in due course be laid before Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution Act, and it would perhaps be inappropriate at this stage to discuss them in any detail. I would, however, say that they represent the agreed opinions of my Government and of the Government of Burma as to the régime which is best calculated to create an atmosphere in which the two countries may, during the period of transition, soberly and dispassionately consider the problems of their future relations.

I am aware of the deep interest which Hon'ble Members have consistently evinced, since the legislation of last year, in the position of Indians in Zanzibar. The general question is still the subject of discussion between the Secretary of State for India and the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies that, if specific cases of hardship alleged to have resulted from the operation of the Cloves Decrees, are brought locally to the notice of the Government of Zanzibar, they will be most carefully investigated by that Government and, if necessary, brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies has already been announced. All that I can do at this stage is to assure Hon'ble Members of the unceasing vigilance and solicitude of my Government.

Hon'ble Members will remember that in the course of my last address to the two Houses of the Central Legislature I referred to the outcome of Mr. Menon's enquiries regarding the probable effects of the Marketing Bill, which had been gazetted in Kenya, on the interests of Indians. His report has since been published together with the comments of the Governors of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. I also informed Hon'ble Members that in

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deference to the wishes of the Government of India the Kenya Government had agreed to defer progress with the Bill pending consideration of Mr. Menon's report. It was not to be expected that legislation, which had already been announced on the lines of that existing in the sister territories of Uganda and Tanganyika, and of which the primary object was to improve methods of marketing, would be abandoned. The Government of India, therefore, bent their efforts to securing such amendments in the Bill as would reduce the hardships and remove the apprehensions of the Indian trading community in Kenya. The provision of the Bill which evoked the liveliest criticism was that relating to the grant of exclusive licences. It was feared that if, as was originally proposed, the Governor in Council was entitled to issue exclusive licences without reference to the Legislative Council, there would be neither sufficient publicity nor adequate opportunity for discussing the question whether the issue of such licences was necessary or justified. In order to meet this objection the Government of Kenya have inserted a provision in the Bill to the effect that the application of the principle of an exclusive licence to any particular type of produce shall be effected by motion in the Legislative Council after 14 days' notice has been given. Apart from the question of exclusive licences, the chief anxiety of Indians was that the number of buying centres might be unduly restricted, and that they might be located at inconvenient distances from existing markets. In this respect the Government of Kenya had agreed to give an assurance that all important markets existing at present would be declared as buying centres. It is understood that the Government of Kenya have gone further and have inserted an amendment in the Bill itself providing that trading centres will automatically be markets under the Ordinance. Certain subsidiary amendments,

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such as the provision that reasons for the refusal to grant or renew a licence shall be recorded in writing, have also been effected. Above all a categorical assurance has been given both by the Colonial Office and by the Government of Kenya that the Bill is not racial in its intention and will not be racial in its operation. These are important safeguards. As Hon'ble Members are aware, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has agreed that the Bill should not be brought into operation until he has had an opportunity of considering it as passed, if necessary, in consultation with the Secretary of State for India. The way is, therefore, still open to further representations by us, should these become necessary.

A subject of considerable general interest and importance on which I should like to dwell is the activities of the Indian Research Fund Association. The Association depends for its activities primarily on funds provided by Government. The Central Legislature is represented on its Governing Body by two members elected by the Legislative Assembly and one member elected by the Council of State, but I am not sure whether the nature or extent of the work done by the Association are widely known. This must be my excuse for referring to the subject.

I think I am correct in saying that the Association which was founded in 1911 was the first organisation of its kind to be constituted in the British Empire ; the Medical Research Council in England was started only during the Great War. An increasing degree of public interest is being directed towards the graver diseases which afflict our country, such as Malaria, Kala-azar and Cholera. In Kala-azar notable success has been achieved through investigations made by a special Commission appointed by the Association and through ancillary

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enquiries which it partly financed. As a result, this disease which at one time seemed so menacing a problem in the Eastern parts of India may now be said to have been brought definitely under control. During more recent years the problems associated with cholera have been receiving intensive study, and I am informed that there is considerable hope that the enquiries now being carried out will throw new light on many of the puzzling features of this formidable epidemic disease. Malaria is a disease of more widespread incidence and presents more varied problems. I need hardly remind Hon'ble Members that it was an officer of the Indian Medical Service who discovered how the disease is transmitted and thereby pointed out the course of subsequent investigation. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that India should continue to take a leading part in the investigation of malarial problems. The Malaria Survey of India organised by the Indian Research Fund Association has been at work for years past and has achieved notable results. As an illustration of its activities I may add that, at the moment, one of its parties is engaged in a survey of Quetta and its environments where malaria has been, and is, one of the major problems of public health.

All of us, perhaps, are familiar by now with the term "deficiency disease" and all that it connotes. The Research Fund Association has been for long cognisant of its fundamental importance and among its most notable achievements are the researches in nutrition carried out in Coonoor by Sir Robert McCarrison who has earned a world-wide reputation and has brought credit to himself and to India. The results of researches carried out under the auspices of the Association are published from time to time in the Indian Journal of Medical Research and the Records of the Malaria Survey—publications issued under

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its authority—but for the convenience of the general public non-technical articles are also issued periodically to the lay press.

The account that I have given of the activities of the Association has had to be brief. It must not be regarded as exhaustive. But if it should serve to focus interest on a branch of research which is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the country, my object will have been served. For interest begets sympathy and sympathy encouragement. The lot of the research worker is often to miss both, because of the highly technical nature of his investigation and the comparative infrequency of dramatic discoveries. But these latter, when they come, are the culmination of years of patient toil by men whose normal reward is only the satisfaction that comes of duty conscientiously done. Our more enlightened age should at least lend them the encouragement of a public consciousness of the essentially cumulative character of scientific discovery.

Hon'ble Members will be interested to hear of a recent decision taken by my Government about the disposal of our surplus stocks of quinine. Although Public Health is a transferred Provincial subject, the Government of India decided, some time ago, that they should maintain a reserve of 150,000 lbs. of this drug in order to meet possible emergencies. The recent distressing experience of Ceylon where the incidence of Malaria on an unprecedented scale last year rapidly depleted locally available supplies has emphasised the wisdom of this decision. The surplus to which I have referred represents the stock of quinine in the possession of the Government of India over and above this reserve. The question of its disposal has been engaging the attention of my Government for some time past. Considering the constitutional position,

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we were under no obligation to distribute it to Local Governments below the prevailing market rates. Nevertheless in 1932 Local Governments were offered supplies, in addition to their normal annual requirements, at a price lower than the cost of production, so that they may be enabled to extend "quininisation" of the people at a smaller cost than would be incurred if these additional requirements were obtained at current market prices. This scheme fell through mainly because Local Governments found themselves unable to buy the entire surplus stock with sufficient rapidity even at the reduced price. The Government of India then endeavoured, with the full consent of past Public Accounts Committees, to sell this surplus to trade agencies, not with a view to financial profit but in order to convert into cash a commodity for which there was no effective official demand and thus make available funds that might be utilised for some useful purpose of public benefit. These efforts not having met with appreciable success, it was decided recently to distribute 45,000 lbs. free to Local Governments subject to the condition that this amount will be distributed free over and above the quantities which Local Governments may now be distributing at their expense. The amount which is proposed to be distributed comes to more than half the available surplus, which at the end of June last was only 79,000 lbs. and represents, at the current market price of quinine, a gift of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Provinces. It is hoped that the bulk of this will reach the masses in the rural areas and supplement, in the field of public health, the assistance that the contribution of one crore announced by the Hon'ble Finance Member during his last budget speech was designed to provide towards rural reconstruction.

You will, I think, expect me to make some mention of a matter which, particularly at the present time, is of

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great public interest. I refer to India's foreign trade. Nine months ago I ventured to express some degree of cautious optimism in spite of the disabilities under which international trade was then labouring. It is a matter for regret that world conditions still show little sign of the long awaited recovery. On the contrary, yet another of our most important markets, namely, Italy, has been obliged to impose a system of drastic control over imports, in order to protect her foreign exchange position. Nevertheless, I feel that I am justified, so far as India is concerned, in repeating that note of optimism. India's exports of merchandise for the first four months of the present trade year show an increase of more than 4½ crores over the figures for the corresponding period of 1933, and though they show a comparatively small increase of 1½ lakhs over last year's total, it must be remembered that 1934 was marked by exceptional purchases of raw cotton by Japan. On this one head of our trade accounts alone, namely, cotton purchase by Japan, there has been a decrease of over 3½ crores in the present year. Omitting this exceptional item, India's export trade in other commodities has improved by three crores in comparison with last year. Hon'ble Members may be interested more particularly in the results of our trading with Germany and Italy—countries in which the most stringent measures of control have been imposed. In the case of Germany our information is based on the reports of our Trade Commissioner in Hamburg, who has made a critical examination of the German import statistics. Mr. Gupta informs us that in the last quarter of 1934 the balance of trade was against India to the extent of 2½ per cent. In the first quarter of 1935 the balance was even, showing an exchange of goods valued at 26 million Reichsmarks. For the second quarter of 1935 the balance has again swung in India's favour and Germany has imported from

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India goods valued at 31 million Reichsmarks against exports to India of 24 million only. Again, in the case of Italy, contrary to what might have been expected from the new and stringent system of import control, our exports in the first four months of this year have fallen off by 6 per cent. only.

I quote these figures in no spirit of complacency. My Government are fully alive to the dangers with which the course of international trade is now beset and they will continue to watch the situation with the most anxious care.

Before I leave this subject, may I bring one circumstance to the notice of those who may have found little consolation in a comparison of the trade figures of pre-depression years with those of the present day ? I would ask them to remember that world prices of primary commodities have fallen some 45 per cent. since 1929, and that values in themselves are no true index to the variation in the quantum of trade.

I turn now to certain industrial matters of interest. The coal industry in particular has been prominent in our thoughts in recent months. You will, I am sure, share my deep regret at the two tragic mining disasters which recently occurred within a month of each other and in which 81 persons in all lost their lives. The second of these accidents was, with one exception, the worst mining disaster that has occurred in India. In spite of all that care and foresight can do, mining remains in every country in the world a dangerous occupation, and our record in India in this matter hitherto has been comparatively good. These two last disasters have each been referred for investigation to Statutory Courts of Enquiry by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, and I do not therefore desire to comment further upon them except

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to say that I trust that the results of the Courts' investigations will be to indicate some steps by which the risk of the recurrence of such events can be minimised.

I noted with pleasure the passing at your last session of the Mines (Amendment) Act which will reduce the hours of labour, will give further protection to children and will effect a number of other reforms. It will come into force in a fortnight's time, and I hope that it will prove effective in increasing the welfare and efficiency of the miners.

As most of you are probably aware we have now constituted within the Government of India a Bureau of Industrial Intelligence and Research, and the Advisory Council for this subject held recently its first meeting in Simla. I am glad to say that we have secured the co-operation of the Provincial Governments, of the leading States and of prominent non-officials on this Council. We have started on a small scale, but it is hardly necessary for me to emphasise the increasing importance of industrial research and intelligence for the advancement of industry. It is my hope that, as this work develops, it may prove of substantial assistance to Indian industrialists and particularly to those who, by reason of the small scale on which they work, are unable to undertake research for themselves or, in present conditions, to avail themselves of adequate expert advice.

Civil Aviation is a subject which will, during the next few years, force itself increasingly upon us all. You will remember that about a year ago we undertook an important programme of development, designed primarily to bring the main Trans-India route and certain internal routes into line with modern ideas. In order to ensure the close co-operation required between the Civil Aviation

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experts and the engineers, we have formed a special Civil Aviation Circle in the Central Public Works Department to carry out the programme directly. The estimated cost of the works was Rs. 92.57 lakhs and you will be interested to hear that orders have already been placed for hangars at a total cost of Rs. 16 lakhs and for lighting equipment at a cost of approximately Rs. 9½ lakhs. Progress with works for which special surveys have to be made will naturally be rather slower, but the outlines of the programme as a whole are being filled in. We are now faced with the introduction of regular night flying and with a greatly increased intensity of the Trans-India services. These changes will involve certain important adjustments within the original programme, and I hope that our ground organisation will be developed fast enough to meet the demands of the air.

A less spectacular but not less useful branch of official activity is the administration of the Road Fund. Your Resolutions of April 1934 prolonged the life of the Road Account indefinitely and made it possible for the Standing Committee on Roads to take a longer and perhaps a more generous view in dealing with the demands of the Provinces. A special contribution of Rs. 40 lakhs to the reserve in the Account was a most welcome addition to the sum available for distribution, and in March last the Standing Committee was able to approve in general outline the distribution of approximately Rs. 118 lakhs from the reserve, this sum representing resources actually in hand *plus* the additional resources likely to accrue during the execution of the works. We have not forgotten the Provinces which are most in need of help for road development, and the scheme approved by the Committee allows for grants of Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 12½ lakhs to Assam and Bihar and Orissa respectively. The needs of

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the new Provinces of Orissa and Sind will be specially considered ; surveys are in progress in Orissa and will shortly be undertaken in Sind.

You are aware that for some time past my Government have been giving attention to the development of broadcasting. At the last session of the Legislative Assembly a fund of Rs. 20 lakhs was created for this purpose, and we are now considering to which of our many needs this fund should be devoted. We are already erecting a large transmitting station in Delhi to broadcast programmes in English and in Urdu. This station will, I hope, be ready for use before the end of this year. A large transmitting station at Madras will certainly be needed and we hope to instal new and powerful transmitters at the existing stations at Calcutta and Bombay. Whether it will be possible within the resources now at our disposal to instal four relay receivers and two short-wave stations to complete a broadcasting framework for India as a whole, I cannot yet say. A more detailed investigation of costs will be made during the coming winter, and a definite scheme for the expenditure of the sum included in the fund will then be prepared.

It is a matter of great disappointment to me that the improvement in railway earnings, which was so welcome a feature of the previous year, has suffered a setback during the current year, though I hope it is only temporary. Till the middle of August railway earnings have been about half a crore below those of last year, and unless there is a change for the better soon the position of Indian railways will again become serious. I can only add at present that my Government are fully alive to the gravity of the situation and are in consultation with those responsible for the administration of Indian railways in

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order that whatever steps are possible may be taken to improve their net earnings.

This year has seen an important step forward in the development of the financial organisation of India. On the 1st of April last the Reserve Bank of India came into existence and assumed responsibility for the management of the currency and exchange, and for making the sterling remittances of the Government of India. The Gold Standard Reserve and the Paper Currency Reserve were on that date amalgamated and transferred to the control of the Bank. The Bank is at present continuing to issue Government of India currency notes in the form with which the public is familiar. In due course these will be replaced by the Bank's own notes. The Bank did not assume its full responsibilities as head of the credit organisation of India until the beginning of July when the scheduled banks were required to make their deposits. From that date the Reserve Bank became a central bank in the full meaning of the term and on 4th July declared its bank rate for the first time.

In March last the legislature approved of the proposal that out of last year's revenue surplus a sum of Rs. 113 lakhs should be distributed to the Provinces for the purpose of improving the conditions of life in the villages. This action, I am glad to say, has been universally welcomed throughout India. Rs. 15 lakhs of this grant were set apart for assisting the co-operative movement. The Local Governments were invited to make recommendations as to the most profitable use to which the balance could be put, and their proposals have been scrutinised by the Government of India before their approval was accorded. A statement has recently been laid on the table of this House which shows the objects to which the money is being devoted. The objects are various, since they are

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adjusted to the needs of the different parts of the country. Out of the total grant, over Rs. 25 lakhs will be spent on village water-supply and irrigation, nearly Rs. 19 lakhs on schemes for general improvement in the villages, Rs. 12 lakhs on the improvement of village roads, and Rs. 10 lakhs on sanitation and medical work. A sign of the times is that in certain Provinces money will be spent on arrangements for broadcasting instruction and entertainment in the villages. My hope is that this grant will prove the beginning of a steady advance throughout India in improving the conditions of life in the villages in which nine-tenths of the population live.

Since I last addressed you the Government of India Bill has received the Royal Assent and has become the Government of India Act, 1935. A great and difficult task has thus been completed by Parliament, after an expression, direct or indirect, of the views of all sections of the peoples of British India and prolonged consultation with the Princes of India. Here and in England views of every nature, extreme or moderate, advanced or conservative, have been expressed. We have all sought to obtain this provision or that in the Constitution and we have all sometimes succeeded and sometimes failed. It is the business of men of practical wisdom now to forget the individual issues upon which opinion has differed and to consider the sum and substance of our total achievement. On such a consideration we must, I think, conclude that the gain to India is great.

I do not, therefore, on this occasion desire to invite your attention to any of the particular provisions of the Act, but I would ask you to consider two broad features of the new Constitution and desire to give you, if I may, one word of advice.

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It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that during my Viceroyalty there has been made possible a consummation which many of the great rulers of India through the ages desired to see but did not see and which was hardly in sight when I myself took office over four years ago. I mean that the Act for the first time in the history of India consolidates the whole of India, State and British, for purposes of common concern under a single Government. India for the first time can become one great country.

The second broad feature, in contrast with the existing constitution, is that the Governments of India under the new Constitution will draw their authority by direct devolution from the Crown just as Dominion Governments do. They will cease to be agents and will stand forth as full political and juristic personalities exercising the functions of His Majesty.

The first feature to which I have referred is the consummation of age-long efforts, not only of the British Government but of all great Rulers in India from Asoka onwards. The second feature is the necessary preliminary and best augury for the full attainment by India of the political character which the most developed of His Majesty's dominions enjoy.

My experience of India now extends over two decades, and I have also had no inconsiderable experience of the theory and practice of political life in other parts of the British Empire. It is out of that long and full experience and out of the genuine sympathy which I have ever felt for India's political aspirations that I give you this word of sincere advice. Nothing is to be gained by working the Constitution in a spirit of mere destruction or by the abandonment of constitutional methods. The new

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Constitution contains within it great potentialities of development. Everything is to be gained by taking up the new proffered rôle of a consolidated India and a full political personality and by developing the Constitution till it, in due season, sheds those limitations and restrictions which have been designed for the period of its growth. The abandonment of constitutional methods has never led us anywhere in the past and will never lead us anywhere in the future.

It will not be my task to introduce the new Constitution, nor to join with you in its constitutional and I trust harmonious development. I shall hand over that task to one who comes equipped with great technical knowledge of our new Constitution, for he has himself been a builder in the construction of your policy, one who will I know bring to the service of the Crown here the fullest sympathy with your aspirations and ideals. I feel the greatest confidence that, when he comes to the stage which I have now reached in my life here as Viceroy he will look back on a period fraught with great good to the fortunes of India, enriched by the same kindliness which you will assuredly accord to him as you have so generously accorded to me.

Your thoughts are no doubt occupied, as mine are, by forecasts of the steps by which and at which the new Constitution will be brought into operation. It is impossible for me at this stage to give any indication of precise dates. But, as you are no doubt aware, all branches of my Government and all the Provincial Governments in India are actively and industriously engaged on the problems which must be solved before the new Constitutions in Provinces and at the Centre can be introduced. We shall spare no efforts which will enable

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us to introduce the new order of things at the earliest possible date.

In conformity with this intention, the Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to report on the delimitation of constituencies and connected problems will assemble in Simla before the end of the present month, that is within two months of the date of the Royal Assent. We have secured as the Chairman of that Committee an electoral authority of great eminence in Sir Laurie Hammond, while with him will be associated two Indian members whose experience as High Court Judges ensures that judicial outlook and strict impartiality which are so essential. The problems which face the Committee are of great complexity, but I am confident that they will prove equal to the task.

In conclusion I wish to make an appeal, which is not new, but which is uppermost in my mind at the present time. No system of Parliamentary Government can be expected to work successfully and for the benefit of the people as a whole without the existence of a spirit of accommodation and a willingness on the part of all sections of the people to prefer the wider interests of the whole body-politic to the narrower interests of their own particular section. As I said not long ago in a speech at Allahabad, the shadow of communal strife is hanging at this time over India. It is a shadow of evil portent and a cause of constant anxiety not only to all Governments in India but to all thoughtful and responsible people. If India is to enter on her new Constitution in conditions favourable to its successful development, that shadow must be dispelled and I would appeal to all those who love this country and desire to see it well governed by its own people to show a spirit of tolerance and goodwill and to

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work for the creation of greater friendliness among all communities.

On Thursday last the Legislative Assembly to the regret of my Government and myself refused by a majority to take into consideration the Bill to give permanence to the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, and to certain provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932. I had hoped that the Assembly would share with Government the responsibility for this measure. Their refusal to do so has transferred the responsibility to me and after taking time to consider all the implications of action or inaction on my part I have decided, in discharge of my responsibility for the safety, tranquillity and interests of British India, to give the Assembly an opportunity to reconsider their decision, and the Bill will be brought before that House again in a recommended form. The arguments for and against the Bill have already been discussed at great length on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, and I shall therefore state as briefly as possible my own reasons for considering the passage of the Bill to be essential. We are on the eve of important changes in the constitution of India. Within the next two years the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and good government in the Provinces will be transferred to Ministries responsible to the legislatures. I consider it my imperative duty to use such powers as I possess to secure that that transfer takes place in the most favourable conditions possible to the stability and success of these new Governments. Dangerous subversive movements are still active in the country. Communal unrest as I have already said is unfortunately a more serious danger than for many years past. The experience of all Local Governments has been that the provisions of this Bill give them powers which are effective in keeping

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these movements in check and in preventing the publication of incitements to communal dissension. They are unanimous in considering the retention of these powers essential. I am myself satisfied that they are right and that I would be failing in my duty if I did not use my special powers to secure that these Governments have these powers during the remainder of the present constitution and that the new Governments shall also have them when they take over the reins of Government.

And now I leave you, Gentlemen, to continue your labours of this present session, and I do so with full confidence that you will continue to maintain the traditions and dignity which have always characterised the proceedings of both our Legislative Chambers.

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**OPENING OF THE DOON SCHOOL AT DEHRA DUN.**

His Excellency the Viceroy opened the Doon School at 27th October Dehra Dun on Sunday, the 27th October 1935, and made the following speech :—

*Sir Frank Noyce, Members of the Indian Public School Society, Principal, Masters and Boys of the Doon School, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*Life has brought me many experiences and perhaps the variety of the climes in which I have served His Majesty has brought me an even wider variety of experience than falls to most men. Even so, towards the end of this latest of a long series of public offices I find myself adding yet one more to the total of novel experiences. I assure you that nothing could possibly give me more pleasure than to be present here today, to take my part in this important ceremony of formally opening the first Public School run entirely on British lines in India, to start on its way an educational experiment, which I sincerely believe will be of immense

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value to this country in future years and to know that its first working will be under the guidance of one who was associated as a master with my own old School in England.

I should like before I go any further to say how fully I endorse every word which Sir Frank Noyce has said in eulogy of the late Mr. S. R. Das who was the originator and founder of this great venture, and I much hope that some permanent memorial may be raised to his name here which will be a constant reminder to future generations of his untiring interest in bringing about the establishment of this the first Public School in India.

To every member of the Board of Management and of the Indian Public School Association my gratitude goes out in full measure for the zeal and enthusiasm they have all shown in their labours to secure the successful starting of this School. I share with Sir Frank Noyce the regret we all feel at the absence of Sir Joseph Bhore from this gathering. May I add that I am glad to know that the Government of India have been able to be of some assistance to them by handing over this fine property as the permanent home for the new Doon School.

And today I want to give a very warm welcome as head of the Government of India to Mr. Foot, the Headmaster, and his two British colleagues who have come out to help us in a fine spirit of Empire Service to establish this School on true public school lines. To them and to their Indian colleagues I give my sincere good wishes in undertaking the responsibility of this great experiment. And what is the main purpose of this experiment ? It is very true as you have said, Sir Frank Noyce, that for some time there has been constant criticism and condemnation of our educational system in this country. It is said, and I think with considerable justification, that it is rather a soulless machine whose purpose is to cram young men and women with book learning in order that they

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may pass examinations, rather than a human instrument which will enable them to become useful citizens of their country, that there is too much insistence on every pupil taking a degree, and too little attention paid to what is equally important in all education, namely, the formation of character, which will develop our young citizens with a high sense of honour, of responsibility and of discipline, qualities which are absolutely essential to all service in public life.

It is, I feel, in the hope that we may be able to some extent to answer these criticisms, that we are establishing this School here today.

At present what we have before us is a School of 70 boys, the oldest of whom is 14. By next February, however, the boys will I understand increase in number to 180, and it is anticipated that if the development is normal, the School will ultimately house 400 boys. As I look round these buildings and the grounds and the open space before me, my mind travels back over what is now a long stretch of years to when I too was a schoolboy and to those functions at which the parents and relatives assembled and at which some important person would preside and speak. The differences between the scenes are obvious enough. The lapse of time would bring many without the intervention of 6,000 miles of sea and land and a difference of over 20 degrees in latitude. I find, however, the essentials oddly the same. There is a famous Latin line which says that those who cross the seas change their sky but not their minds, and I think it is true and properly so if we look at it in this light that the enduring and valuable faculties of man are unaffected by climate or origin. Youth is the same everywhere. It is only the opportunities and conditions before it that differ, and the object of those associated with the Doon School is to put before some portion of the youth of India the

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chances of developing in conditions which have played a great and precious part in the life of Great Britain.

We hear much of the need for closer contacts of East and West, and here in this School is one form of contact to which we of the West attach great value and which we hope in its Indian expression will prosper and be fruitful.

Continental and other critics of the British Public Schools system are fond of attacking it on the ground that boys are kept boys too long with the result that the University undergraduate in Great Britain is insufficiently mature. On the other hand, it may well be doubted whether it is not better to remain a boy too long than to become a man too soon, and it would be a British rejoinder to these criticisms that the latter danger was too often in evidence in more forcing systems. Perhaps in India too, conditions ordinarily tend towards impressing a too early maturity upon the adolescent, always a process fraught with considerable danger.

The Society has taken the greatest care in recruiting the staff of the School, and from the point of view of instruction there is every ground for confidence, but let us remember that education is not a 100 per cent. outside process. We all hear of the self-educated man and oddly enough the phrase generally arouses a certain amount of amusement and even contempt, but actually it is true that every man who is worth anything in this world has carried out some of his own education. However much we can learn from teachers, there is a world of knowledge and experience we can learn only from those of our own age with whom in our growing years we are thrown into association, and that perhaps is the greatest item on the credit side of the Public Schools system. The boy at the Doon School has to live and act and think and feel in contact with those who are boys like himself. In this School you will live in a miniature of the world of human

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contacts you will in your adult years have to enter. In it you will find opportunities for self-denial, leadership, argument, association, in fact all the various aptitudes and forbearances that will be demanded of you in later life. You will have to frame your views and your decisions in the light of your school life and purposes, not merely in those of your home.

Home is a beautiful word and a beautiful thought, but like many other things of beauty it shines best against a background, and that background is the common life of man. In this School we hope that while in no way losing the keenness of your appreciation of your home and what it means you will be able to achieve in your later years a wider appreciation of the real purposes and problems of life.

I was deeply interested in that part of Sir Frank Noyce's speech which dealt with the financial position of the School. The starting of a School like this is an act of faith, and I think the Society was wise not to wait until it had amassed a total of funds that could be held to provide for every emergency in the future. They have, I gather, gone on the theory that they will start the School on a reasonable financial basis, but look to its success as an institution to a growing popularity and reputation to produce a response in the way of assistance that will gradually build up a stronger and stronger financial backing. This after all is the process that has happened in the Public Schools of England. A School is started to meet a demand and actual inception is generally facilitated by individual or collective generosity. Old boys remember it in the days of their adult prosperity or in their wills, other institutions or interests assist it and so gradually by a process of accretion it accumulates possessions along with dignity and renown. It is not the desire of the Society

*Address presented by the Municipal Board of Lucknow.*

that the Doon School should descend like a purse-proud parvenu upon the educational system of India. Parvenus never take root but remain an unpleasant and unnatural excrescence. It is the desire of the Society that the Doon School shall prove its worth and take an acknowledged and natural, a unique and honourable place in the country's educational system. I commend the venture to all those who are interested in India's youth and the problems and difficulties that confront it. Here is one effort to provide a solution for a difficulty that has long exercised the more thoughtful minds of this country. It is an effort worthy of all encouragement, and I hope that Indian generosity and interest will not fail to keep it in mind.

ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE MUNICIPAL BOARD OF  
LUCKNOW.

**28th November 1935.** In replying to the Address presented by the Municipal Board of Lucknow on 28th November 1935, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Mr. Chairman and Members of the Lucknow Municipal Board,—*It gives me great pleasure to be here today. This is not the first time that Lady Willingdon and myself have paid a visit to your beautiful city, but it is the first occasion upon which we have met you in your corporate capacity and I greatly value the opportunity.

I have listened with great pleasure to your account of the progress which you have made in many branches of your municipal administration, and of the attention which you have consistently paid to the improvement of the amenities of life in your city. The laying-out of a Zenana Park and the establishment of an Infectious

*Address presented by the Municipal Board of Lucknow.*

Diseases Hospital must add greatly to the health and well-being of the citizens committed to your charge. You refer also with legitimate pride to the success with which some years ago you substituted terminal tax for octroi in your schedule of taxes, and to the care and attention which you bestow on your primary educational system. These are signs of a vigorous and healthy municipal life, upon which I congratulate you warmly. Difficulties and problems in other branches of your administration are, unfortunately, not wanting, as your address admits, but it may be some consolation to you to hear from me that such difficulties which you are experiencing are to be found in most forms of administrative life, and I am convinced that you will apply yourselves resolutely to your task and determine to overcome your difficulties and prove yourselves worthy of the great responsibility you are undertaking for the satisfactory development of your great city. If, as you suggest, you have special needs and troubles in connection with these or other matters, the Local Government will, I am confident, render you a sympathetic and ready hearing, if you will approach them, and will afford you the fullest measure of financial assistance which is compatible with the state of the provincial finances and the claims of other cities and towns.

Lucknow, as you say, holds an almost unique position in this Province. Fresh duties and responsibilities have devolved on it with the establishment here of the seat of the Legislature ; these duties and responsibilities will not diminish but increase as years go on and the Legislature of the future grows more and more in importance. My prayer is that you may always, with the help and assistance of the Local Government, make it your aim to maintain your administration on the highest level of efficiency and to make it, as nearly as possible, a model of what the municipal administration of a great Indian city ought to be.

*Address presented by the Municipal Board of Lucknow.*

You will not expect me, gentlemen, to deal in greater detail with your municipal affairs, of which necessarily I have but little information other than what you have given me today. I will now pass to the general remarks which you make towards the end of your address. India stands, as you say, on the threshold of a new political system. I am fully aware that the coming reforms do not meet in full measure the aspirations and wishes of many, but they undoubtedly constitute a great advance and throw open a wide avenue by which the people of India can show the measure of their capacity and progress. I welcome most warmly your statement that you realise that the new Legislature must be given a fair and full trial in a spirit of co-operation between the Government and the people ; and I share confidently your hope that the new reforms may lead to the improvement of relations between India and the rest of the Empire.

I thank you very gratefully for the kindly references you have made to my own work and services, and for your generous remarks as to my humble efforts for the welfare of India during the 16 years that I have been privileged to live amongst you. Though I shall not witness on the spot the inauguration of the new political order in this country, my thoughts will never be far from this land, and I shall watch its progress and the working of the reforms with sustained and abiding interest in the confident hope that they will help you rapidly forward to your destined position in the comity of the nations of the Empire.

I deeply appreciate the charming remarks you have made with regard to the constant and untiring labours of my wife for the social improvement of the women of India. She has been my constant partner and helper throughout my public life and with intimate knowledge of her work for others, I can sincerely say that in her

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*Address presented by the Taluqdars of Oudh.*

case, at all events, your remarks are fully justified. On behalf of Her Excellency and myself I thank you once again for the address which you have presented me, and can assure you that we shall both carry away most affectionate memories of our reception here today.

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ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE TALUQDARS OF OUDH.

In replying to the Address presented by the Taluqdars of Oudh on the 28th November 1935, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Gentlemen,—*I need hardly say what pleasure it gives Lady Willingdon and me to pay a formal though all too brief visit to your beautiful city and to have the opportunity to enjoy your far-famed hospitality. I have visited Lucknow on other less formal occasions and have at various times made the acquaintance of many of you. But I should indeed have been sorry to have left India without meeting you, the Taluqdars of Oudh, in, as it were, formal durbar, and without renewing the ties of friendship made earlier in my Viceroyalty.

I was delighted to hear remarks with regard to the appointment of my old friend Sir Harry Haig as Governor of your Province, and I agree with you that you are fortunate to have His Excellency with you to guide your administration in these difficult but interesting times. I can speak with confidence in this matter, for I too have been fortunate in having His Excellency in close association with me as my Home Member in recent years and I shall always be grateful for his help and assistance in solving questions of considerable difficulty and anxiety. I am quite sure that, with Lady Haig at his side, the people of the United Provinces will benefit by his wise and experienced guidance.

*Address presented by the Taluqdars of Oudh.*

You have a great position inherited from the past, and it is particularly gratifying to me that you are not allowing yourselves to be lulled by that position into neglect of your opportunities, that you are fully alive to the obligations of today towards your tenants and dependents and that you realise the importance of a prosperous and contented peasantry. If you hold fast to those ideas, you need have no fear of the future.

You have referred, in kind terms, to my handling of the two-fold task which I found awaiting me on assuming the Viceroyalty of India, the task of restoring internal peace and of elaborating a new constitution. In the former I acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation of the law-abiding section of the people and in particular of the old land-owning families. Their continued co-operation is essential to the prosperity of India. The constitution which has now been forged with infinite care and patience will, I believe, be found to suit the conditions of this country and to contain within itself the seeds of natural development and expansion. In this process of political evolution no one can play a more worthy and conspicuous part if they wish to, and I am confident they will wish to, than the Taluqdars of Oudh, fortified by tradition and inspired by hope. You have referred to the extent of your special representation in the legislature, and I know that this is a matter that has caused you great concern. You have put your case fully before the Local Government and the Indian Delimitation Committee, and you may be sure that the Committee who are charged with the duty of making recommendations will weigh your representations with care. Whatever may be the issue of this particular point, you may be assured that the new constitution gives ample scope to all who serve India and indeed calls for devoted service from the Taluqdars of Oudh, whose special position and privileges may reasonably be held to connote special responsibilities. I am confident that you will discharge them to the full.

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*Address presented by the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga.*

With you I regret that it will not fall to me to inaugurate the new constitution. I have seen the foundations laid and the edifice completed. I have no fear for India's future as a partner in the Empire. While I live I can never forget her, her problems, her people and the happy and crowded hours she has given me.

I thank you once more on my behalf and on behalf of Lady Willingdon for your delightful hospitality and wish you all prosperity and success.

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#### ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA.

In replying to an Address presented by the Maharaja- 30th Novem-  
dhira of Darbhanga on the 30th November 1935, His ber 1935.  
Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Maharajadhiraja, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*I am most grateful to you, Sir, for the very cordial terms in which you have proposed the toast of the healths of Her Excellency and myself for the acceptance of this distinguished audience. My friendship with the family of which our host is now the head takes me back many years. For that and other reasons a visit to Darbhanga would at any time have been a real pleasure both to Lady Willingdon and myself, but on this occasion circumstances have given our visit a very special object.

Here, in Darbhanga, we are in the heart of the area afflicted by the terrible Earthquake of 1934. As you, Sir, have reminded us, it is a little less than two years ago that you, in common with so many others, were, as a result of that terrible catastrophe, without home or shelter. At that time, though I did not come to Darbhanga, I visited other parts of Bihar and saw with my own eyes the widespread destruction and distress. This visit has now enabled me to acquaint myself, again at first hand, with

*Address presented by the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga.*

one part of the work of reconstruction. Ladies and Gentlemen, I think it is right to say that it is to the lasting credit of our host that, confronted with this appalling calamity, he truly rose to the occasion. Assuming to the full the responsibilities of his position, he immediately declared his intention of completely rebuilding the town, and assisted and encouraged by the invaluable guidance and advice of His Excellency Sir James Sifton who has taken a close personal interest in the scheme, the Maharajadhiraja immediately directed his whole energies to the task in hand.

This plan of creating a new and better town could not have been carried through on its present lines, if it had not been for the generosity of the Maharajadhiraja in financing the scheme. He began with a splendid contribution of five lakhs of rupees and followed it up with a loan of nine lakhs to finance the Darbhanga Improvement Trust. And I am happy to take this occasion to announce that he has communicated to His Excellency the Governor his generous intention of now supplementing his original gift with a further contribution of two-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. There are many I am sure who might be mentioned tonight who are giving you, Sir, loyal and devoted assistance in your work of reconstruction but I think we shall all be agreed that I am fully justified in paying this personal tribute to the Maharajadhiraja who with a generous determination to undertake to the full his responsibility for the care and well-being of his people has spared no effort to restore and improve the amenities of life in this city.

This morning's functions were a source of real pleasure to me, and I am glad to be able to tell you, Sir, that Her Excellency is delighted to allow her name to be associated with the Hospital of which she laid the Foundation Stone.

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*Address of Welcome by Dr. Graham of Kalimpong.*

The Statue of your father which I was privileged to unveil will keep fresh his memory amongst you all, and the performance of the ceremony brought back to my mind many pleasant recollections of my associations with him in the past.

Let me, in conclusion, thank you very sincerely for the kindly sentiments you have expressed in proposing the health of my wife and myself, and for your expression of regret that we are giving up our work in India before long. I assure you that feeling of regret is fully shared by us both. But though we shall be leaving this country, our interest in its welfare will never be diminished, and we shall ever be grateful for the warm-hearted affection and friendship which we have received from our many friends in all parts of the country, which, we sincerely trust, will not be weakened when we go.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise with me and drink to the health and happiness of the Maharajah-dhiraja of Darbhanga.

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ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY DR. GRAHAM OF  
KALIMPONG.

In replying to an Address of Welcome read by Dr. Graham of Kalimpong on 2nd December 1935, His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech :—

*Dr. Graham, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*It was with feelings of very real pleasure and gratitude that I listened to the words with which you, Sir, on behalf of your fellow-citizens of Kalimpong welcomed Her Excellency and myself to your District, and I should like at once to express to you our warm and grateful thanks for your friendly and cordial greeting. It is true, as you say, that our visit is a short one. It is also true, as you have reminded us, that we have waited until our last cold

*Address of Welcome by Dr. Graham of Kalimpong.*

weather in India before coming to see you. However let me assure you that neither of these facts are of our own choosing—indeed if we had had our own way, we should have paid you a much earlier and longer visit, but however willing the spirit, the flesh is weak and India being a vast country with many varied and ever-increasing problems of administration, it is becoming more and more difficult for a Viceroy to tour when and where he will, so different from those past days that we read of when Viceroys were able to take long tours under conditions of considerable comfort and leisure.

I am indeed fortunate in timing my visit to synchronise with the Annual Agricultural, Industrial and Social Mela which was inaugurated so many years ago, for it gives me the opportunity of meeting many here today who, as you tell me, Sir, are my own farming tenants and to see something of their varied agricultural and industrial activities. I am delighted to learn that your population, consisting, as it does, of members of many castes and creeds, have learnt to live harmoniously together, a great and most satisfactory example at a time when the menace of communal friction is so evident in many parts of the country.

It was with particular pleasure that I listened, Sir, to the encouraging account which you gave me of the happy state of affairs existing in Kalimpong. Commerce and trade on the increase ; educational facilities developing on the right lines ; medical comforts and equipment in plenty ; and last, but not least, the amenities and beauty of your settlement attracting more and more visitors from the plains. That is, indeed, a condition of things upon which you are all to be congratulated, and I earnestly hope that your enterprise and enthusiasm will bring you added prosperity in the future.

I am greatly touched by the words which you, Dr. Graham, have used in referring to the work which Her

*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Farm House and Hostel  
at the Kalimpong Homes.*

Excellency and I have been privileged to do on behalf of those who are in need of help and in paying tribute once again to the great debt which I owe to my wife for her unremitting labour in many spheres of charitable and humanitarian endeavour. May I venture to recall the inspiration and assistance which Dr. Graham received from his wife in the early days of the Kalimpong Homes. I am informed that Mrs. Graham gave to the founding and development of these homes abundant energy and ideas which contributed in no small measure to the success that attended their work. We can well imagine the joy she would have felt if she had been spared to witness the full measure of that work as the institution, which she helped to found, flourished and expanded.

In conclusion I wish to thank you once again for the warmth of the welcome which you have extended to Her Excellency and myself today. On our part we wish you all increasing happiness and prosperity.

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**LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE FARM  
HOUSE AND HOSTEL AT THE KALIMPONG HOMES.**

His Excellency the Viceroys performed the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the Farm House and Hostel at the Kalimpong Homes on 2nd December 1935 and said :—

2nd Decem-  
ber 1935.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—I don't think that you will expect me to trouble you with a further speech, but I feel it is impossible to let this occasion pass without expressing my gratitude to you, Dr. Graham, for giving me as a Vice-Patron of your Kalimpong Homes this opportunity of showing my interest in your activities in a very practical manner by laying this foundation stone today. Let me express the hope that these buildings when*

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*Opening of the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.*

erected may add much to the wonderful work in training and education that you are giving to our youthful Anglo-Indian fellow-citizens in order that they may grow up to have every chance of giving useful service to the British Empire in their future careers.

I am sure that we have been keenly interested in the historical account of the inception and growth of these homes since you started in the year 1900, and of the education and training of the children under the care of your devoted band of teachers. But to me this ceremonial has particular interest from the fact that, as you say in your address, "This building marks a striking advance in the development of the agricultural side of our organisation". For, as one who has been interested in agriculture all his life, and who realises fully the immense importance of developing our agricultural industry, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to meet and to thank all those who are bringing up our young people to realise and appreciate the merits and advantages of taking up the profession of farmers for their future careers. I need only add that my wife and I feel proud and honoured at receiving your invitation to allow our names to be associated with these new buildings. We gladly agree and trust that our name will bring all success and good fortune to your new venture.

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#### OPENING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

16th December 1935. In opening the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta on the 16th December 1935, His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech :—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I thank you, Sir, sincerely for the warmth of the welcome which you have*

*Opening of the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.*

extended to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and myself on behalf of the delegates from the Constituent Chambers of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on this the third occasion on which we have had the privilege of being with you at your Annual Meeting. I assure you that I always look forward to this opportunity of meeting you all here collectively, for it enables me to show my interest in your prosperity and progress and to say a few words on matters which are in my mind and which may, I hope, be of some interest to yourselves. Let me add that I think it was hardly necessary. Sir, to give His Excellency or myself the assurance of your loyal and unceasing support to ourselves and our Governments in our work. We can both very gratefully say that we have had the fullest evidence of this constant support during the difficult and anxious years through which we have recently passed.

In the first place, I wish to associate myself very cordially with every word that has fallen from you. Mr. President, with regard to the great services rendered by Sir Hubert Carr as your representative during all the discussions that took place in London in connection with the New Constitution in India, and I should like to congratulate you on the very graceful recognition you have shown him of your appreciation of the great work he did on your behalf.

I referred last year to the constitution of the Transport Advisory Council consisting of the Members of my Government concerned, sitting with provincial Ministers and their advisers, and I then expressed the hope that the Council would promote close and regular contact between the Centre and the Provinces in the solution

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*Opening of the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.*

of the difficult problems of transport co-ordination. I am glad to be able to say that that hope has so far been realized and that at its first meeting the Council adopted, with a gratifying approach to unanimity, a statement of policy concerning the construction of roads and railways, the control of motor transport, and the creation of administrative machinery to promote co-ordination.

While I am discussing the question of transport, I must refer briefly to the Indian Roads Congress which was inaugurated a few days before I last addressed you. That inaugural meeting was, I believe, a successful step in the direction of getting our Engineers together to exchange opinions and the results of their experience, with the object of promoting efficiency and economy in the expenditure of roads. There is no question of the very great need for road development nor, unfortunately, can any one suggest that the funds at present available are adequate. In those circumstances economy and efficiency in the application of whatever money is available become an imperative necessity. My Government believe that the Indian Roads Congress is an institution which will make for those ends and we have, therefore, decided to defray the cost involved for a further period of two years.

In civil aviation, the most important recent developments have been the duplication of the air mail service between London and Singapore and the inauguration by Tata Sons Limited of a weekly air mail service between Bombay and Trivandrum with intermediate landings at Goa and Cannanore. This latter service, which connects at Bombay with the existing Karachi-Madras Air Mail Service, will shortly be available for carrying mail as well as passengers and freight. Now

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*Opening of the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.*

that the Government of Ceylon have provided an aerodrome at Colombo, it is hoped that a further development, namely, the extension of the Tata air service from Madras to Colombo, will take place in the near future.

It is a regrettable, though I hope a temporary, setback that Indian National Airways Limited have been compelled to close down the services between Calcutta and Dacca and Caleutta and Rangoon which they had successfully inaugurated and operated for eighteen months. The former service never had the support from the public which the Company had expected in view of the obvious advantages it offered for rapid communication between the two chief cities of Bengal and, though on the latter service both passenger and mail traffic showed a steady increase, that increase was not sufficiently rapid to justify the Company in continuing to operate at a loss.

Considerable progress has been made with the programme for the development of ground organisation to which I referred last year. Orders for air route and aerodrome lighting equipment for the trans-India route and contracts for hangars at aerodromes on that route and on the main feeder routes have been placed ; and improvements to existing aerodromes and the construction of new aerodromes are being carried out. But much of the work in the past year has been of a preliminary nature and before long there will be more material evidence to show what is being done. Important adjustments within the original programme have been necessitated by the early prospect of a greatly increased intensity of the trans-India services.

Active consideration is being given to the proposals of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the speeding up, and increase in frequency of Empire

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air services and the carriage of all first class Empire Mail by air.

The difficulties of the jute industry have exercised the minds of many in Calcutta during recent months. I need hardly assure you that they have also given my Government and the Government of Bengal serious and anxious thought and consideration. While we have not been able to see eye to eye with the Jute Mills Association on the subject of restricting output, we are ready to consider any sound proposals that may be put forward for assisting the industry to reach a stronger and more stable position. When therefore the Association suggested the sending of a deputation to Delhi to discuss the matter, my Government welcomed the opportunity. As that discussion will be taking place in two or three days' time you will not expect me to add any further observations on the subject at present.

You are aware, gentlemen, that India, in fulfilment of the obligations flowing from her membership of the League of Nations, has joined with her fellow members in imposing Sanctions, financial and economic, against Italy. My Government are fully conscious of the seriousness of this step and of its possible repercussions on India's foreign trade. They view with regret the severance of trade relations—so mutually advantageous in the past—between India and Italy, but they have felt nevertheless, at this critical point of time, that the maintenance of the principle of the Covenant of the League must outweigh more material considerations of profit or loss. The economic isolation of so important an industrial and economic Power as Italy must bring in its train a most serious disturbance of world economy, but it will be our endeavour to minimise by every means in our power its effects on India's trade and commerce. It is impossible

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yet to estimate what these effects will be. There will be many loose ends to join together, and with this object in view there has been constituted a special Committee of the League of Nations whose duty it will be to co-ordinate the efforts of individual States towards a re-distribution of the trade which has hitherto flowed in Italian channels. Steps have already been taken to ensure that in the deliberations of this Committee, the claims of India to the fullest consideration will be most energetically pursued.

It is particularly regrettable that the present crisis should have arisen at a time when the problems of international trade were already so baffling and so complicated. Still one more obstacle has been placed in the way of world recovery, since whatever stimulus the war in Abyssinia may give, in various quarters, to industrial and commercial activity, that stimulus can only be temporary and must in its nature be unhealthy. These problems to which I have referred have been receiving the careful consideration of my Government and, in particular, it has been their concern to examine whether the time has yet come to abandon India's traditional foreign trade policy, based as it is on reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment, in favour of the now popular method of bilateral negotiation. It is impossible for me in the time now at my disposal to set before you the manifold aspects of this complicated question, but I would affirm that nothing in the study of world economic conditions in the past few years, or in India's present circumstances, has shown that any departure from our accepted policy is necessary. Situated as she is, a supplier for the main part of raw materials and food-stuffs to the great commodity markets of the world and dependent on widespread world demand rather than on particular

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nations or on particular customers, India can ill-afford to risk the closing of any door now open to her by virtue of her most-favoured-nation rights. She must continue to seek an outlet for her surplus produce in these markets and her interest lies, not so much in the conclusion of individual trade bargains as in the restoration of the free and unrestricted flow of international trade on which world prosperity depends. The problem before her is one which is common to all trading nations of the world. That problem is, in brief, the rehabilitation of the mechanism of international trade. It is a problem which India cannot solve by herself, but it is one in the solution of which she should be prepared at all times to give her fullest co-operation.

During the past five years, India has passed, in common with the rest of the world, through a period of almost unexampled economic stress. It is therefore a matter of satisfaction to me that, in addressing you for the last time, I am in a position to point to some indications of a gradual movement towards economic recovery in the country. The steady decline in the general level of prices which commenced in the latter part of 1929 has now definitely ceased and an upward tendency appears to have set in. There is evidence also that the disparity between the prices of agricultural and of manufactured commodities which has so seriously affected the purchasing power of the great mass of the people of India is now less marked than before and that a more balanced price relationship is probably within sight. The progress of industrial development has been well maintained in spite of the general depression and in some cases, notably in the cotton textile industry, greater advances have recently been recorded than at any time in the past. There was a noticeable improvement in the volume of export as

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well as import trade in India in 1934-35 as compared with the previous year when the lowest levels in recent times had been recorded, and this improvement has since continued unchecked. India's total visible trade now shows a favourable balance which is substantially higher than in the period preceding the War. Among the most welcome signs of improvement is the material reduction in the burden of interest charges which is a matter of such deep concern to both industry and agriculture. The rate of interest on Government loans has been reduced to 3 per cent. for the first time since 1896 ; and the Bank rate which reached as high a figure as 8 per cent. in the closing months of 1931 has also fallen to the same level. These developments afford some indication of the progress which has been made towards a general economic recovery. In the light of these facts I believe that, unless there are further disturbances in the conditions affecting world trade and finance, we may now regard the future with a certain measure of confidence.

When I spoke to you last year, I commented briefly on the position under the impending Reforms of the European Business Community. I emphasized the value of Good-will in business relations between the members of different communities and expressed my appreciation of the extent to which this is being increasingly realised. The new Government of India Act is now on the Statute Book, and I would like, before I close, to convey to you a few further sentiments relative to your position here which, I trust, from my long experience in this country you will allow me to convey to you and which, I hope, you will consider and find helpful.

Let me say that I feel, in common with everyone of you, a justifiable pride in the contribution you have made to building up the India of today as we know it, and

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in the service you have rendered to this country. In many fields of endeavour you have led where others have followed. By your resource, your perseverance, your industry and your enterprise, India has in many directions enjoyed advantages which might otherwise have been longer delayed. In the history of the relations between Great Britain and this country, yours has indeed been an honourable part.

What, then, of the future? In the discussions of recent years, your leaders have shown a keen appreciation of changing conditions and have made it clear that the Europeans resident here for purposes of Trade and Commerce fully identify themselves with India's aspirations in their desire to stand in a position of full equality with the members of the great British Commonwealth of Nations.

I congratulate you on the position you have taken up in this matter and am sure that it is the course of wisdom. But it will not be sufficient that you should merely be well inclined towards the development of new political institutions in India. It will be in those institutions that, in the ordinary transaction of Government business, decisions will be taken which will be of great importance to yourselves.

By means of your own representatives in the new Legislatures you will have the opportunity of influencing those decisions. Sacrifices of time and leisure will be required from those you select to represent you. I have no doubt that, as in the past, your leaders will be willing to come forward and take their part in the public life of the country. It will be their function to voice your interests, but, above all things, keep this fact before you. The future destinies of India, her welfare, her progress and prosperity, these are all matters of no less concern

*Banquet at Baroda.*

to you than to those for whom India is their home and motherland. India's interests are your interests. Whole-heartedly and in full measure may I ask you to associate yourselves with all that leads to the advancement of this country and adds to her position and advancement ? If you hold this ideal constantly before you I am sure you will be fully recompensed in the future.

In conclusion I am sincerely grateful to you, Sir, for your good wishes to my wife and myself when we leave the shores of India and for your generous expressions of regret that this is the last occasion on which I shall attend a gathering of your Members.

I need hardly say that I regret that fact, too, and I am full of regret that in a few months' time I shall be leaving those many friendships, interests and associations which I have formed during some of the best years of my life in this country. Gentlemen, we have lived through stormy times during the past years, but I think I see the sun shining through the clouds, and my profound hope is that India will once again be on the high road to increasing development and prosperity.

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**BANQUET AT BARODA.**

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech *5th January* at the State Banquet at Baroda on Sunday, the 5th January 1936.  
1936 :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank Your Highness most cordially for the very warm welcome you have extended to me this evening. It is a real pleasure to renew my friendship with Your Highnesses, and I consider myself fortunate indeed that the auspicious occasion of Your Highness's Diamond Jubilee of Accession should have taken place during my Viceroyalty and that I have*

*Banquet at Baroda.*

been able to come to Baroda and extend to you in person my warmest and most heartfelt congratulations. Your Highness, it is my pleasant duty now to read out a message which His Majesty the King Emperor has been graciously pleased to entrust me to convey to Your Highness :—

“ Your Highness, it gives me much pleasure to convey to Your Highness my sincere congratulations on celebration of Diamond Jubilee of Your Accession to the *Gadi* of Baroda. To few Princes is it granted to rule for so long a period of time and to look back with satisfaction upon 60 years of continued material and moral progress in the lives of their subjects. I trust Your Highness may be spared to your State for many years to come and that prosperity and happiness may increasingly attend your rule.”

The year 1875, when Your Highness succeeded to the *Gadi*, marked the beginning of a new era of material and steady progress in the State. Under Your Highness’s enlightened guidance, Baroda has never looked back. At the outset Your Highness set before you high ideals, some of which have already been attained, others you steadfastly pursue and I can truly say that you have devoted your life to the interests of your State and the welfare of your subjects. The fruits of your labours are in evidence on all sides. The administration of the State is on a high level, but what is perhaps more important it is built upon sure foundations.

It has afforded me much gratification to see the announcement which Your Highness has made that in commemoration of Your Diamond Jubilee you have created a trust with a capital of one crore of Rupees, the income from which is to be devoted to the improvement of rural

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conditions in your State. I can imagine no more fitting manner in which the memory of this historic occasion could be perpetuated.

The people of Baroda are fortunate indeed that Your Highness has been spared for so long a period of service for their common good, and I am confident that your name will be emblazoned in gold upon the annals of your State and will long be remembered by your people with gratitude and affection.

Your Highness has generously referred to the part I have been called upon to play in the Constitutional changes that are now taking place in India. As I stated when I visited you three years ago my firm conviction is that an All-India Federation with necessary safeguards will be to the advantage and in the interests of the States and British India alike. Since that time the Government of India Act has been placed upon the Statute Book, and I am delighted to know that this measure has the support of broad-minded and experienced Rulers like Your Highness. The future of India is now placed in her own hands. In that future, the States will be called upon to bear an ever increasing share in the problems which beset every Government, and Baroda, by reason of its high standard of efficiency in education and administration will be expected to play a role of great importance.

I have been very greatly interested in Your Highness' reference to the scheme which you have put forward with a view to the readjustment of the relations existing between the Baroda State and certain of her tributaries. Under this scheme, while you have sought to effect an improvement in economic and administrative conditions and to provide for financial relief to the States and Estates concerned, you have wisely taken care to leave their powers and privileges unimpaired. I sincerely

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trust that the Feudatories to whom Your Highness has referred will give your proposals their full and careful consideration, for they will certainly be well advised to do so.

Your Highness has mentioned the subject of Communalism in India. It is for the leaders of creeds and communities so to set their house in order that toleration may prevail. Communalism must necessarily retard progress and (as I have said in a speech which I recently made at Allahabad), it is the duty of all those who have the welfare of their land at heart to show courage and wisdom so that this evil may be eradicated and India may enter on her new constitution with the omens favourable and the course set fair. I heartily endorse every word that Your Highness has said on this subject and I sincerely trust that your appeal will not fall on deaf ears.

I thank Your Highness most gratefully for the generous and gracious remarks which you have made with regard to my wife's constant efforts and activities on behalf of the women of India. No one knows better than I how well deserved those words are. The welfare and progress of this great country are as near and dear to her heart as they are to my own. I can assure Your Highness that it is a matter of the keenest disappointment to Her Excellency that ill-health has prevented her being with us all this evening.

I feel that I cannot sit down without saying how pleased I was to learn of the Honour which was bestowed at the New Year upon Your Highness' Dewan, Sir V. T. Krishnamacharia, who has played such an important part in the Constitutional discussions which took place in England and who has rendered such consistent and outstanding service to Your Highness and to Baroda.

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*Opening of the Science and Technological Institute at Baroda.*

In conclusion I thank Your Highness once again for your kind hospitality and I must once again say how glad I am to have been able to be present here on this auspicious occasion and to pay my tribute of regard to Your Highness and Her Highness whose friendship I have valued for many years, and I ask you all Ladies and Gentlemen to join with me in offering to His Highness our warmest congratulations upon the happy occasion of his Diamond Jubilee, and to drink to the long life and happiness to Their Highnesses and prosperity to the Baroda State.

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OPENING OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE AT BARODA.

His Excellency the Viceroy performed the opening ceremony of the Science and Technological Institute at Baroda on Monday, the 6th January 1936, and made the following speech :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*It affords me great pleasure to open the Science and Technological Institute which has been erected as a memorial to His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee. I cannot commend too highly the wisdom of choosing a memorial of this kind. For it at once embodies in a permanent form the feelings of affection for His Highness which are held by those of his subjects who have so generously contributed to the cost of this Institute. It also provides a means of further progress and development on scientific lines within the State.

I have elsewhere alluded to the general and material progress on modern lines within the Baroda State. I can safely say that in such matters the Baroda State is second to none, and for this most satisfactory position

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Arts College at Rajkot.*

the subjects of this State are greatly indebted to the wisdom and foresight of its present ruler. Scientific research continues to play an ever-increasing part in the modern progress and development of the human race, and, through the medium of the Institute which I am about to declare open, further facilities will be available to the students and others of this State, of which I trust they will take the fullest advantage.

I have great pleasure in declaring open the Golden Jubilee Science and Technological Institute.

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#### LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW ARTS COLLEGE AT RAJKOT.

**7th January 1936.** His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Arts College at Rajkot on Tuesday, the 7th January 1936 :—

*Thakore Saheb, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must first thank you, Thakore Saheb, for the kind welcome you have given me and for the charming way in which you have referred to Her Excellency, who much regrets that the pressure of other engagements has prevented her from being present with me today. It gives me great pleasure to visit Rajkot, and to see again a State which was well known to me in the days of that fine sportsman, the late Thakore Saheb Sir Lakhaji Raj. I am delighted to know that financial conditions in your State are so satisfactory. The central position of your State and the fact that your capital is the headquarters of the Western India States Agency have certainly contributed much to your material resources. These circumstances also place you in a somewhat exacting position ; for your capital is constantly visited by your brother Rulers and your administration*

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Arts College at Rajkot.*

is under a critical scrutiny more constant than in the case of more outlying States.

I appreciate very much your reference to the outcome of my efforts towards the restoration of order and tranquillity in India, and the leading of her destinies to a higher status. The measure which has now been enacted represents the result of years of deliberation and discussion between the various interests concerned, and though, like all the products of human effort, it cannot claim perfection, it does represent, and is, I believe, generally admitted to represent, a solid advance towards the goal which all good Indians have at heart, and holds out promise of the achievement by India of that destiny which is hers to realise, if she will. As you know, I have always believed that the Indian States have a large part to play towards the realisation of that destiny ; and I hope and believe that they will fully realise their responsibilities and take an important part in the establishment of a great Federation of India.

I am glad to know, Thakore Saheb, of the measures you have taken towards the satisfaction of the material needs of your people, and it gives me great pleasure to be associated with the foundation of your Arts College. I am deeply touched by your desire to associate scholarships at this institution with my own name and with that of Her Excellency, and I am delighted to agree to your suggestion. The geographical position of your capital and its position as an important railway centre render it particularly suitable for such a College, and I am particularly pleased to know that the people not only of the town, but also of the Civil Station have shown by solid contributions their anxiety to forward the project. It also seems to me a matter of great satisfaction that the College is to contain provision for vocational training. It

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*Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.*

is a commonplace of educational criticism in India that the production of Arts graduates is greatly in excess of the demand for them ; and that India needs industrial and scientific training for her young men if progress is to be achieved and stagnation avoided. I hope therefore that the practical training which you contemplate that the College will afford will not be allowed to be overshadowed by a purely Arts course. I feel sure that it is in the provision of a scientific and vocational training that you can do most to serve your generation. Your efforts in this direction will be closely watched by the other Rulers of Kathiawar, and if your venture here is a success, you may be assured that it will be copied elsewhere. I will now with great pleasure lay the foundation stone of this institution, and I wish for it all success as a contributor towards the welfare not only of Rajkot but also of other areas of which Rajkot is the centre.

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**PRIZE-GIVING AT THE RAJKUMAR COLLEGE, RAJKOT.**

8th January 1936.      His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the Prize-giving ceremony at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, on Wednesday, the 8th January 1936 :—

*Mr. Principal, Your Highnesses, Princes and Chiefs, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am delighted to have this opportunity of visiting once again the Rajkumar College in whose activities when I was Governor of Bombay I used to take a keen personal interest and to find that, in spite of having passed through somewhat difficult times, as, you, Sir, have told us, the oldest of the Chiefs' Colleges in India is, I trust, on the fair way to renewed vigour and usefulness in the life of the country.*

It was therefore with the greatest attention that I listened to your most interesting remarks on all the

*Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.*

changes that have been made in the general character of the college-changes, let me say, with which I most cordially agree, and which, as you have truly said, required great courage and decision on the part of the members of your Council. And I think it is well that our oldest Chiefs' College should set this example to other Chiefs' Colleges in India of establishing a public school system, which I am sure will prove of great advantage to the young men who are being trained here in giving them grit and character to fit them for taking up their responsibilities when they start their careers in public life.

I can well understand your anxiety, Mr. Principal, when the change was made from each boy having his own set of rooms, his kitchen and private servants which was the case when I came here in 1916 to the dormitory and general messing system which is the general custom in all public schools in England, and am delighted to learn that this system has in no way disrupted the college, but that the numbers have increased by something near 100 per cent. But the numbers, as I understand it, are still only 40, a number hardly sufficient to fulfil all the purposes of a public school either in the class room or the playing fields, and I much hope to see the rulers of the Agency and particularly of Kathiawar rallying to its support and making it a strong and flourishing institution.

I have long had the privilege of the acquaintance and friendship of the rulers of the States in Kathiawar, and indeed of those throughout India and have had much experience of their generosity in subscribing to worthy purposes. I am therefore delighted to know that the memorial fund raised on the initiative of His Highness of Rampur, to the memory of my old friend, His Highness the late Jam Saheb of Nawanagan, who himself during his life-time was the greatest champion of the fortunes of the college for many years, should have been given to

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*Reception of the non-Salute Chiefs and Talukdars of the Western India States Agency.*

the founding of scholarships which will bear his name. And I feel sure, Mr. Principal, that a word of very sincere congratulation and thanks should go from me to you and to all those who assist you for the part you have taken in successfully guiding the affairs of the college through these difficult times of change, and it is clear that your innovation of appointing a matron instead of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon has proved eminently successful, for Miss Hilson's appointment has clearly had the most admirable influence by giving confidence to all parents that their children at the college are being thoroughly well cared for.

Lastly let me say, Sir, how very gratified I was to listen to your expressions of appreciation of the interest taken by Sir Courtenay Latimer in the affairs of the college, and (to use your own words) of his 'unfailing help and wise advice' which have both been invaluable to you. I need only add that I am certain, I am sure I may say on Sir Courtenay's behalf, that that help and advice will always be available whenever you require it in the future.

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RECEPTION OF THE NON-SALUTE CHIEFS AND  
TALUKDARS OF THE WESTERN INDIA STATES  
AGENCY.

8th January 1936. His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the reception of the non-Salute Chiefs and Talukdars of the Western India States Agency on Wednesday, the 8th January 1936 :—

*Gentlemen,—It gives me very great pleasure to have this opportunity of meeting the non-salute Chiefs and Talukdars of this Agency. Some of you living in Kathiawar I have already met when I visited Rajkot as*

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*Reception of the non-Salute Chiefs and Talukdars of the Western India States Agency.*

Governor of Bombay in 1916. Others, from the area now known as the Sabar Kantha Agency, were not included in an Agency with its headquarters in Rajkot when I last visited Kathiawar.

Your numbers have considerably increased since the last occasion on which you were addressed by a Viceroy. In accordance with the policy laid down in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, Cutch and the old Banas Kantha Agencies were brought into direct relations with the Government of India along with Kathiawar in October 1924. In pursuance of the same policy the States of the old Mahi Kantha Agency were included in the Western India States in April 1933 and were also brought into direct relation with the Government of India with the result that the gathering before me includes a number of representatives of Gujarat as well as of Kathiawar. To the newcomers I offer a welcome. To all I wish to express my best wishes and the assurance that their difficulties are appreciated, and that their aspirations have the sympathy of the Government of India.

The years since 1927, when Lord Irwin visited Rajkot, have not been years of plenty, but none have been years of famine. All Chiefs and Talukdars have suffered from the world depression and the low prices ruling for agricultural produce. Signs, however, are not wanting to suggest that the period of depression is slowly passing away, and with a revival of trade and industry the prices of agricultural produce are likely to rise.

I am sure that you all realise that your chief strength lies in the prosperity and contentment of your subjects, and that as Lord Irwin pointed out to you in 1927, the principal justification of all rule is that it should be good rule. In India as a whole the fact has recently won increasing recognition that the real India lives in the

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*Reception of the non-Salute Chiefs and Talukdars of the Western India States Agency.*

villages and that rural uplift deserves a prominent place in any measure conceived for the general good. The subjects of most of you are a purely agricultural population, and it is the welfare of the cultivators with which you are principally concerned. And in this connection I would strongly urge on your attention the benefits which attach to security of tenure for occupants of the land. Without such security no cultivator will get the best out of his land, and if the people suffer, the Ruler must ultimately suffer also.

The period of warfare in the Western India States Agency was followed by an age of bitter litigation, in which the conflict between different States and Talukas was transferred from the battlefield to the Court room. In such conflicts the interests of the country as a whole were often forgotten. There are welcome signs that Chiefs and Talukdars are beginning to realise that victories won in this field often cost the victor as much as the vanquished, and that a willingness to compromise and a readiness to discuss points of difference in a friendly spirit are likely to result in settlements acceptable to both sides. I appeal to you all to cultivate this spirit and thus to extend the area of friendly co-operation and beneficent enterprise.

The passing of the Government of India Act is a reminder that we are living in an age of change, and that constitutional arrangements are in course of readjustment. I believe that a Federal Constitution, which will bring the Indian States for the first time into constitutional relationship with British India, must add strength, stability and prosperity to India as a whole. To many of you the future may seem uncertain, and the precise means by which the smaller States and Talukas are to be brought into the Federal scheme can only be satisfactorily

*Opening of the Willingdon Dam at Junagadh.*

evolved if all concerned bring the right spirit to the task. I believe that given goodwill the problem can be solved in a manner which should be satisfactory to all. Some of you may regret that in your case as in that of many of the salute States separate representation for your States in the Federal Legislature of the future is impossible. In a country of the size of India this cannot be avoided. But I can see no reason why the group representation proposed should not adequately voice your interests.

In conclusion I should like to repeat my pleasure at this meeting and my good wishes for the future of yourselves and your subjects.

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**OPENING OF THE WILLINGDON DAM AT JUNAGADH.**

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech **10th January 1936.** at the Opening of the Willingdon Dam at Junagadh on Friday, the 10th January 1936 :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—* My first pleasant duty is to extend to Your Highness the warmest thanks of Her Excellency and myself for the very friendly and cordial welcome you have given to us both today. Let me say it was not unexpected, for Your Highness and I are very old friends, and I have always taken the keenest interest in the progress and development of your State ever since the days when I was Governor of Bombay and you were a very youthful and budding ruler.

As Your Highness has rightly observed, we had the pleasure of visiting you in your State nearly 20 years ago, and, with that visit still fresh in our memories, we felt confident that a warm welcome would await us on our return. Your Highness has referred to the disappointment you experienced when we had to postpone our visit to you last year. Let me assure you that Lady Willingdon

*Opening of the Willingdon Dam at Junagadh.*

and I shared your disappointment, but we were determined not to leave India without revisiting an old friend who rules over the premier State in Kathiawar—one of the leading Muslim States of India.

The traditional loyalty of the Babi House to the British Crown and Empire has long been recognised by many of my predecessors, and I shall have great pleasure in communicating to His Majesty the King-Emperor Your Highness' assurance of your steadfast devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's Throne and Person.

I was delighted to learn of the satisfactory position in which Junagadh now finds itself, both financially and in other important respects, and it is a particular pleasure to know that the communal feeling which made itself evident in your State four years ago has now I hope entirely disappeared. Your graceful reference to the assistance which Your Highness has always received from my Political Officers is a source of great gratification to me. I am sure that in the future as in the past, they will ever deem it no less a pleasure than a duty to give you any assistance of which you may be in need.

The fine buildings and institutions of Junagadh are a striking evidence of the solicitude and care which Your Highness and your predecessors have always shown for the welfare and comfort of your subjects and the present water-supply scheme will undoubtedly do a great deal more in this regard. I very greatly appreciate the sentiments which have prompted Your Highness to call by my name the Dam which is about to be inaugurated and it gives me much pleasure to know that the name of Willingdon will be associated in future in Junagadh with a work of such important public utility. I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the designer of the reservoir and the engineers who have so successfully carried out the work on which the large sum of eight lakhs of rupees has

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*Unveiling of the Memorial Statue of the late Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.*

been spent. It is my very sincere hope that the Willingdon Dam and Reservoir, which I now declare open, will long stand to contribute to the well-being and comfort of the people of Junagadh and as a memorial of the beneficent activities of the Durbar.

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#### UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL STATUE OF THE LATE JAM SAHEB OF NAWANAGAR.

In unveiling the Memorial Statue of the late Jam Saheb 11th January 1936. of Nawanagar on Saturday, the 11th January 1936, His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am sure that we must all have listened with feelings of considerable emotion to the very moving and affecting speech which Your Highness has just made on this occasion which you have truly said is tinged with a certain melancholy. For to me today this occasion recalls vividly to my mind a friendship which I valued exceedingly, a friendship between your uncle the late Maharaja of Nawanagar and myself which began over 40 years ago when he was proving himself to be one of the greatest cricketers the world has ever known, and which I rejoice to feel remained firm and sure until the day of his death. I have always deeply regretted that circumstances made it necessary to postpone the celebration of His late Highness' Silver Jubilee in his State, for I should dearly have liked to have paid my tribute in his living presence to one who was always an ambassador of co-operation, of friendship, and goodwill between our two races, and who, when he succeeded to the great responsibilities of rulership of his State, was never weary in working for the advancement and welfare of his people. But that was not to be. Still as I feel, like you, Your Highness, that those we love best in this life are*

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*Unveiling of the Memorial Statue of the late Jam Sukeb of Nawanagar.*

always near us in spirit after they have left us to help and guide us in undertaking our duties and responsibilities, I am sure that your uncle's spiritual presence is with us today, sharing with us the joy we all feel that his subjects have raised this permanent memorial to their late ruler, a tribute from them all of their love and gratitude to him for his constant care for and interest in their well-being. I remember well when my wife and I came to visit His late Highness in the year 1916, and he did us the honour of naming the Willingdon Crescent after us as a permanent record of our friendship. He had already begun then to create the new city of Jamnagar. But now, when I come back again in 1936 and see the wonderful developments all around me, I must use the phrase that you have used in another connection and say like the Queen of Sheba that the half had not been told me, for, as I look around me and see the fine buildings and broad roads of a modern and healthy city, your remark that your uncle found a city which was poor, squalid and insanitary and has left it to his successor rich and dignified, and adorned with fine public buildings of all kinds, is completely justified. Your Highness, he has left you a great legacy, but at the same time a very great responsibility, and I rejoice in the knowledge that you have already shown every evidence of following his splendid example, and of setting yourself to continue his labours for the good of your people, your country, and the British Empire.

And so, Sir, I shall perform this ceremony with a heart full of memories of a great ruler, a great gentleman, and above all to me personally a tried and trusted friend, and it is my most sincere hope that that friendship, so firmly based with the ruler of your house so many years ago, will remain with me during my life with Your Highness and every member of your family.

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OPENING OF THE "WILLINGDON SECRETARIAT"  
AT MORVI.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech 13th January  
at the opening of the "Willingdon Secretariat" at Morvi on  
Monday, the 13th January 1936 :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—* My first word this morning must be to express to Your Highness from my wife and myself our pleasure and happiness at finding ourselves enjoying the hospitality of a very old friend and our visit recalls to our minds many recollections of those four years in Bombay when Your Highness and Your Highness' late father were never weary in helping us in all our many activities connected with the Great War. I am sincerely grateful for the very kind terms in which Your Highness has welcomed us to your State and the generous, indeed most flattering, terms in which you have referred to our varied labours during the happy years we have spent in your country. I need hardly say that I feel much honoured at your suggestion that this fine building should bear my name, and I accept the honour very gladly. I assure Your Highness that we both feel it a great privilege to be given this opportunity to be present at this gathering and to declare open this magnificent group of buildings of the genesis of which Your Highness has given us so interesting an account. It is clear that Your Highness, while respecting by the retention as a temple of the central building the religious impulse which animated your late father, has turned the remainder to a practical use which is, if I may say so, thoroughly characteristic of Your Highness. Morvi has been fortunate in the possession of architects and builders capable of designing and constructing such buildings and of Rulers with the power and the will to bring them into being. I have already seen enough of the town to show me that the Secretariat is not the only

*Opening of the "Willingdon Secretariat" at Morvi.*

fine building here, and that on all sides are to be seen evidences of the taste and generosity of Your Highness and of the late Ruler, your father.

I have been most interested, as I am sure we all here have been, to listen to the account of what the Durbar have done in the more practical and utilitarian sphere. Railways, tramways, telephones, Town and Port Development, State workshops, an Agricultural Bank, Water Works and a Famine Insurance Fund all testify to the care of the administration for the material needs of the people. On Hospitals generous sums have been already expended, and Your Highness has told us that the large sum of rupees three lakhs has been set apart to commemorate by a new Hospital the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties. Free education, both Primary and Secondary, show that the minds of the people are cared for as well as their bodies. I am glad to know of the efforts which are being made for the improvement of the status of the depressed classes. I sympathise strongly also with the efforts Your Highness is making to perpetuate and improve the famous Kathi breed of horses. The improvements of which Your Highness has spoken have cost large sums of money, and have only been possible as a result of the careful management of the State finances. I congratulate Your Highness in having been able to achieve so satisfactory a financial position, especially in view of the somewhat difficult situation with which you were faced on your succession to the *Gadi*.

I appreciate very much Your Highness' reference to the approaching termination of my period of office as Governor-General of India and the good wishes you have expressed for Her Excellency and myself. Though we shall shortly be leaving India, we shall never forget it on

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Willingdon Hospital at Wankaner and the unveiling of the Statue of His Highness.*

the many friends we have made here ; and our interest in India and our sympathy with it will not grow less when we leave its shores. We shall always be glad to have had an opportunity to visit Morvi and to reaffirm a friendship which was made long years ago, and we shall always remember the very kind welcome we have received from your subjects today. We wish Your Highness and your State all happiness and an ever-increasing share of prosperity, and trust we may have many opportunities of meeting each other in future years.

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#### LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW WILLINGDON HOSPITAL AT WANKANER AND THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF HIS HIGHNESS.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech on 14th January 1936. on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new "Willingdon Hospital" at Wankaner and the unveiling of the statue of His Highness on Tuesday, the 14th January 1936 :—

*Your Highness, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*Before replying to the two most interesting and charming speeches to which we have just listened, I wish to convey to you, Maharana Saheb, my heartiest congratulations on the conferment upon you by His Majesty the King-Emperor of a K. C. S. I. in the New Year's Honours List. I am sure that I am voicing the sentiments of all who are present here today when I say that Your Highness has indeed well merited the high distinction which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer upon you.

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*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Willingdon Hospital  
at Wankaner and the unveiling of the Statue of His Highness.*

And now, Your Highness, I must thank you most gratefully on behalf of Her Excellency and myself for the very cordial welcome you have extended to us both today. We are delighted to be with you and we appreciate to the full the generous references you have made to such services as we have been privileged to render to this great country in past years.

Your Highness has alluded to the part played by Wankaner in the Great War, and you have also recalled with characteristic modesty the part that you yourself played. Being in Bombay, as I was, at the time, I know that all that Your Highness has claimed—and more—is true and if proof were needed of that fact, one has only to recall the military rank which Your Highness now bears as a result of your own personal services and the enhancement of your Salute which was a tribute to the loyal and devoted service rendered by Your Highness and your subjects during those four terrible years.

I listened with the greatest interest to your account of the improvements—particularly in the development of sanitation and medical relief—which you have been able to achieve in your State since you came to the *Gadi*, and the hospital, of which I am shortly to lay the foundation stone, is a further testimony to the constant and abiding interest which Your Highness has always shown for the comfort and well-being of your people.

Mr. President, it was with particular pleasure that I listened to the charming and sincere tribute which you paid in your speech to His Highness the Maharana Saheb, and I am delighted to think I am associating myself with you and all His Highness' subjects by unveiling a statue

*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Willingdon Hospital at Wankaner and the unveiling of the Statue of His Highness.*

of His Highness by the erection of which you are giving practical expression of the gratitude and devotion that you all feel towards your ruler. His Highness can look back through the long period of his rule to years of quiet and unobtrusive work for the good of his subjects and of many beneficent measures steadfastly carried out.

In a State where the majority of the subjects depend on agriculture for their livelihood, His Highness has done much for the common good by promoting a Cultivators' Bank and the active encouragement of irrigation. As you have rightly said, Mr. President, an increased acreage under the plough of some 33 per cent. is a proof of the success of His Highness' measures. The reduction of taxes, the reorganisation of the Police, the development of industry, along with the improvement and beautification of the urban area and the creation of a competent judiciary, independent of the executive, are all achievements of which both ruler and subjects may well be proud, and have been rendered possible only as a result of careful economy and studious avoidance of all wasteful and speculative expenditure. The increase during the present century in the number of pupils in the State schools and the large increase in State expenditure on education also bear testimony to an enlightened administration.

The picture which you, Mr. President, have drawn of His Highness as a man accords well with the record of his achievements, and I look forward in a few moments' time to unveiling a statue which I trust will ever serve to recall to the people of Wankaner the deep debt of gratitude they owe to His Highness Maharana Shri Sir Amarsinhji Banesinhji.

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 OPENING OF THE SHRI DAULATSINHJI BRIDGE  
 AT LIMBDI.

**15th January 1936.** His Excellency the Viceroy performed the opening ceremony of the Shri Daulat-sinhji Bridge at Limbdi on Wednesday, the 15th January 1936, and made the following speech :—

*Thakor Saheb, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*I must first of all thank you, Thakor Saheb, for the very kind way in which you have welcomed Her Excellency and myself to your capital, and for the charming references which you have made in your speech both to Her Excellency and to myself. It gives us both the greatest pleasure to visit a friend of such long standing as you, Sir, to refresh old memories of your State which we first visited some 20 years ago and to see for ourselves the many improvements which you have effected in that time. I have been most interested to hear of the measures which you have adopted since your accession to the *Gadi* in 1908 to fulfil the promises you then made to strive for the happiness of your people. You have told us what has been done in the provision of free education and free medical relief, and I have been particularly interested to know of the success of the Girls' School which bears Her Excellency's name. The re-planning and re-building of the town of Limbdi have done much to contribute towards the welfare of its inhabitants, and I am glad—though not surprised—to know how at your recent Jubilee celebrations your subjects showed their appreciation of your efforts in their behalf. The construction of the bridge which I am about to declare open over the Bhogavo river will bring the town of Limbdi within easy reach of outlying areas of the State, and I congratulate you, Sir, on the completion of the bridge, which as you have told us, was initiated some seven years ago. Demands on the Road Development account are numerous and it is impossible for all the claimants for assistance from it to be satisfied ; but in the final outcome the State has succeeded in building a magnificent bridge

*Opening of the Ram Rajendrasinhji Hospital at Limbdi.*

which I trust may stand for many years as a memorial to the Ruler whose name it bears. It will now give me great pleasure to declare the bridge open.

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OPENING OF THE RAM RAJENDRASINHJI HOSPITAL  
AT LIMBDI.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech 15th January 1936. on the occasion of the opening of the Ram Rajendrasinhji Hospital at Limbdi on Wednesday, the 15th January 1936 :—

*Thakor Saheb, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*I have already expressed to you, Thakor Saheb, the pleasure it has given to Her Excellency and myself, especially after the disappointment which we unavoidably suffered last year, to visit an old friend and to revive our memories of your capital, first visited by us in 1916. I am particularly glad that it should have fallen to my lot to be associated with the opening of two works of such public utility as the Daulat Bridge, and the fine Hospital which we see before us. The name which the Hospital bears has a pathetic interest for us, perpetuating as it does, the memory of your young and promising grandson, and we need hardly assure you of our deep sympathy in your loss by his untimely death.

I am sure you have all been as interested as I have been to listen to the account which the Thakor Saheb has given us of the development and expansion of medical facilities in his State. In this Hospital towards the cost of which a share has been borne by the people of Limbdi there stands a permanent memorial of the humane impulses of both Ruler and people. The sums expended on its construction and equipment, and the most generous provision over and above the initial outlay made by the Thakor Saheb towards an endowment fund ensure that

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*Banquet at Bhavnagar.*

it will be maintained in an efficient manner. The Thakor Saheb has referred, may I say with justice, to the untiring efforts of Her Excellency towards the alleviation of suffering among the people with whom she has lived during the years she has been in this country ; and if the onerous duties of my office have prevented me from taking an equally active part, you are right in thinking that I am as deeply interested in all efforts towards this object. I rejoice to know of this fresh instance of the Thakor Saheb's solicitude for his subjects in this regard, and I trust that the Hospital which it will now give me great pleasure to declare open may long contribute to the welfare of the people of Limbdi.

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#### BANQUET AT BHAVNAGAR.

16th January 1936. His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar gave a Banquet in honour of Their Excellencies' visit to his State on Thursday, the 16th January 1936. In replying to the toast of his health His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—Let me at once express to Your Highness the warmest thanks of Her Excellency and myself for the very kind terms in which you have proposed our healths. Your Highness has given a very apt quotation from the Harrow School Song, and, although it is a somewhat unusual experience for me, I feel that I can on this occasion identify myself heartily with a Harrow sentiment and follow Your Highness' admirable example in making a short speech. However, let me assure Your Highness that both Her Excellency and I are delighted to have this opportunity of revisiting Bhavnagar and seeing once again a State in which we were entertained nearly twenty years ago when Your Highness' father was Ruler of your State. He was in his life-time one of the best and truest friends I ever had

*Banquet at Bhavnagar.*

in India. I well remember the cordial welcome he gave us on our first visit to Bhavnagar at that time, and I can particularly call to mind an event on that occasion which much impressed itself on my mind, when I was driven in a motor car round the city by Her Highness, your mother, who proved to be most skilful at the wheel. And may I add that the photograph to which Your Highness referred in your speech is ample proof that, if young in years, you are also—to me—old in friendship too.

May I make one short further personal reference to a very old friend of mine who is a distinguished citizen of Your Highness' State, Sir Prabhshanker Pattani. I shall always be grateful to him for his loyal help and guidance to me when we were intimately associated together in my early years in India in our administrative work in Bombay. I think he and I can claim that we have both grown grey in the service of the Empire, and he can certainly claim that he has given unstinted and devoted service to the Rulers of Bhavnagar for many long years.

I have been much interested to listen to the modest account Your Highness has given of what you have been able to do for your people since you assumed the administration of your State four years ago. The Durbar has been most generous in writing off revenue arrears and the arrangements made to liquidate the private debts of cultivators represent a solid contribution to the welfare of your agricultural population. I am glad to learn, too, that efforts are being made to improve the facilities for technical education in Bhavnagar and thus reduce in some measure the unemployment which I always feel is made more acute in this country by the fact that undue adherence is paid to purely literary studies. I was furthermore very pleased to see this morning both the completion of the scheme for improving the water supply of Bhavnagar and

*Luncheon at Palitana.*

the inauguration of the drainage and water-supply projects which I trust will in due course contribute much to the comfort and convenience of the people of this town. I congratulate Your Highness on the great interest, you are taking in the welfare of your subjects, and I am sure that in the years to come you will continue to maintain that interest.

Your Highness, I thank you once again for the very kind hospitality you have shown to us during our visit. You may be sure that Her Excellency and I will always take the keenest interest in you and your State, and we shall look forward to hearing that the promise of your early days has been amply fulfilled in your maturity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you all to drink to the happiness and prosperity of our host, His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.

## LUNCHEON AT PALITANA.

**17th January 1936.** The Thakor Saheb of Palitana gave a Luncheon Party in honour of Their Excellencies' visit to his State on Friday, the 17th January 1936. In replying to the toast of his health His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Thakor Saheb, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*It has given Her Excellency and myself the greatest pleasure, Thakor Saheb, to come to Palitana once again after many years and to renew our acquaintance with its people. The interest of our visit here today is enhanced by the fact that the pleasure of a visit to your State has fallen to the lot of no previous Viceroy. We thank you most cordially for the warmth of the welcome you have extended to us and for the very charming words you have just used in proposing our healths for the acceptance of those present here this afternoon who, like ourselves, have

*Luncheon at Palitana.*

the privilege of enjoying your kind and generous hospitality.

I was particularly pleased to hear the delightful tribute that you paid to those who were responsible for your early upbringing, and I am confident that if they were with you today, they would be proud indeed to see that the time and care they expended on you in your early days had produced such successful results and that their charge had proved himself to be such a worthy ruler of his subjects. You, Thakor Saheb, like I at mine, represented your school at cricket, and I am sure that the experience that you gained on the playing field must have stood you in good stead all your life. You learnt how to take hard knocks, you learnt the team spirit and above all you learnt how to play the game whether the wicket was a good or a sticky one.

I was greatly interested to hear of the progressive measures which you, with the limited resources at your disposal, have carried out in your State during your period of rule, and I would particularly like to congratulate you on your having fixed a Civil List for your own expenditure, on your having appointed an independent judiciary and on your having created a pensionable State Service with security of tenure. No one can deny that these are measures of far-reaching importance which must conduce in no small way to the well-being of your State. Your interest in other fields, such as the provision of education, increased medical aid, a water and electric light supply, a new market which you, Thakor Saheb, have been good enough to name after me, and last, but not least, the library which I was privileged to open today and which will perpetuate in Palitana the Silver Jubilee of our beloved Sovereign, the King-Emperor, is further proof—if such were needed—of the constant care and attention that you have displayed in the welfare of your subjects.

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*Address of Welcome from the people of Gondal.*

I am looking forward to seeing once again the Palitana paddock, which I first visited 20 years ago, and I am delighted to hear that you, Thakor Saheb, are following the splendid example of your grandfather and father in the interest which you take in your Stud and in your efforts to maintain purity of blood and quality in the famous Kathi breed.

In conclusion I wish to thank you very sincerely for the charming remarks you have made with regard to my wife's activities with every word of which I most fully and cordially agree. Let me assure you, Thakor Saheb, that it will give me the greatest possible pleasure to convey to Their Majesties the assurance of your loyalty and devotion, and I will also remind Her Majesty of the interesting event in your life that you have told us of, an event which I know will always be a matter of great pride to yourself, and the recollection of which will be of great interest to Her Majesty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join with me in drinking to the health and happiness of the Thakor of Palitana.

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#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE PEOPLE OF GONDAL.

18th January 1936. His Excellency the Viceroy received an Address of Welcome from the people of Gondal on Saturday, the 18th January 1936, and in reply said :—

*Sheth Revashanker Vanechand, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank you, Sir, very warmly for the kindly and cordial welcome that you, on behalf of the people of Gondal, have extended to Her Excellency and myself today. It is a very real pleasure to us both to visit Gondal once again and to have this opportunity of renewing the*

*Address of Welcome from the people of Gondal.*

acquaintance of many whom we met when we were last here in 1916.

It is but natural that on this occasion you should remind me of the great celebrations held here just over a year ago to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of my old friend, His Highness the Maharaja. I learnt at that time of the enthusiastic way in which you gave expression to your feelings of gratitude and loyalty to your Ruler who has so ably and sympathetically guided the affairs of his State for many long years. I share with you your admiration for His Highness' simple and unostentatious mode of living, for his insistence on economy, for his care for his subjects and for the great achievements in his State which have been rendered possible by the careful management of his finances. You are indeed to be congratulated on the admirable provision of roads and schools with which His Highness has provided you and on the security of tenure which the cultivators amongst you enjoy. The complete absence of taxation makes you the envy of many who are in a less fortunate position, and makes me feel that when my official life here is over, I might seriously consider requesting His Highness to allow me to take up my permanent residence in Gondal as a subject of his State. In his very early days, His Highness gave you a foretaste of his quality when, soon after succeeding to the *Gadi*, he conceived and carried out his design of becoming a Doctor of Medicine of a European University. The standard which His Highness set in his youth he has maintained throughout his life, and I feel sure that it must have been as gratifying to His Highness as it was to myself to listen to the fine tribute which you, Sir, on behalf of your fellow citizens paid to your Ruler during the course of your remarks this morning.

You have referred to the fact that Her Excellency and I will shortly be leaving India. We shall do so with

*Banquet at Porbandar.*

great regret, but at the same time we shall carry away with us a real affection for her people, delightful memories of happy years spent in this wonderful country, and gratitude for the many kindnesses that we have received on every hand. I thank you once again for the warmth of the welcome you have given us, and I trust that future years may bring happiness and prosperity to you all.

## BANQUET AT PORBANDAR.

19th January 1936. His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the State Banquet at Porbandar on Sunday, the 19th January 1936 :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*I need hardly assure Your Highness that it is with feelings of very genuine pleasure that we find ourselves enjoying the hospitality of Your Highnesses whom we can claim as old personal friends, for my interest in the affairs of Your Highness and your State began when I was Governor of Bombay, and I am glad to feel that I have been able actively to continue that interest after I came out here as Viceroy now that all the States of Kathiawar are in direct relations with the Government of India.

You have been good enough to make the most charming and generous remarks with regard to such humble services as my wife and I have been privileged to render in different parts of the world, and very particularly in this wonderful country, where it has been our good fortune to have lived and laboured for 16 of the best years of our lives, years which have been in many ways some of the most important and anxious in the history of the country. Looking back over that time I can truly say that we have both done our best to work for the welfare of the people, and while I am fully aware that there are some who thoroughly disapprove of all I have done since

*Banquet at Porbandar.*

I have been Viceroy, I hope and think there are few who have not appreciated my wife's untiring efforts in all branches of social service.

You have spoken of my interest in games, and I must freely confess that I always in my youth preferred sport and play to working for examinations. But tonight I have the opportunity of saying in public what I have before now said to you in private, that we ought all to be extremely grateful to Your Highness for the splendid way in which you led the Indian cricket team over in England nearly four years ago and how much I feel the success and popularity of the team during their visit was due to Your Highness' influence and guidance.

I have been deeply interested in the historical account you have given us of your ancient State of Porbandar, and can fully understand your pride in her past and your determination to uphold her credit and increase her prosperity in these more modern days.

You tell me of your efforts to give medical relief to your people and to improve their educational advantages, and it is good to hear that some of your State scholars are already making their mark in scientific or administrative work in this country.

As Your Highness has pointed out, Porbandar has a long sea board in proportion to its depth of territory, and the population look naturally and largely to the sea and to sea traffic for a livelihood. As in the case of the other maritime States of Kathiawar therefore the port assumes a great importance to the people and you may not be surprised when I say that I have learnt something of your port in recent years. All the maritime States have problems of considerable difficulty. I hope that as the result of the discussions which have been taking place between my Government and the Durbars something

*Opening of the Willingdon Air Station at New Delhi.*

material may be done to settle conflicting claims and to satisfy legitimate aspirations, and I certainly hope that Porbandar, whose ruler has shown so great a readiness to co-operate towards the common good, may not be the least gainer from any settlement arrived at. Each State has its own special difficulties, and I can only say that it is my earnest desire to see all neighbouring States co-operating for their mutual advantage and the welfare of Kathiawar generally. It is my sincere hope that, when the long period of depression through which we have passed through disappears and better times return to us, as I trust very shortly, there will be a considerable increase in your industrial activity, and increasing prosperity to your State and people.

Your Highness, you have suggested there have been many shortcomings in the arrangements for our visit. Pray set your mind at rest, for we have found none and we shall long have happy recollections of a very full but very delightful time spent under the guiding hand of an old friend, the head of the ancient House of Porbandar, whose health and that of his Maharani I ask you to drink.

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#### OPENING OF THE WILLINGDON AIR STATION AT NEW DELHI.

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**15th Feb-  
ruary 1936.** His Excellency the Viceroy performed the Opening Ceremony of the Willingdon Air Station, New Delhi, on Saturday, the 15th February 1936, and made the following speech :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think you will well understand my feelings when I say that nothing could possibly give my wife and myself more satisfaction than to be present at and participate in this interesting ceremony, which gives very practical evidence of the advance that civil aviation is steadily making in many different parts*

*Opening of the Willingdon Air Station at New Delhi.*

of this country, a country which, as you, Sir, have truly said, gives almost unrivalled opportunities for air travel.

It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that we come here to open the first modern Air Station in British India, and are proud to feel that it will always be known as the Willingdon Air Station, and we trust that, when we have left this country, the name may remind many friends whom we leave here of an air-minded Viceroy and Vicerene who felt the advantage of using air transport in fulfilling many of their varied engagements.

I am sure you will all have been interested to hear Sir Frank Noyce's very clear account of the main objects of this present development and his interesting description of the building which we see before us. I can assure you that, thanks to the opportunity of close personal association with my honourable colleague, I have been able to follow the scheme for the development of the ground organisation in India with close attention and interest. Some of you may have thought that the Government of India have been slow at developing air activities, but I would ask you to remember that my Government have been obliged in the past, partly for financial reasons, and partly owing to the uncertainty as to the rate at which air transport would develop, to feel their way carefully in this matter. I think I can safely say that the future of air transport is now assured and this general development scheme, of which Sir Frank Noyce has told us and which will cost over 90 lakhs, is sufficient evidence of the confidence of my Government in the future of civil aviation. Though at present our purpose must be to concentrate at most aerodromes on the essential requirements of safe operation, it will undoubtedly be necessary, as traffic develops, to provide the larger aerodromes with more elaborate control buildings, and I think it very fitting that the first modern Air Station should be opened

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*Opening of the Inaugural Meeting of the Indian Institute of International Affairs.*

at the Capital of India, and it is further satisfactory to know that the building itself is only a part of the improvements to the Delhi Aerodrome which should now be serviceable throughout the year for traffic at all times of the day and night. While I am very grateful to you, Sir, for your kind remarks as to the way we have encouraged aviation since we have lived here, I must tell you that you are running us very close, for I have a vivid recollection of a tour you took, I think last November, in the South of India when you fulfilled by air various engagements at various cities in what appeared to be an exhaustingly short space of time, and were I understand under the care and guidance of Indian National Airways.

And whilst referring to encouragement of aviation in this country, I feel that those who are interested in this new science owe a deep debt of gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur who is not only an expert pilot, but has rightly earned unstinted praise for the efficiency of the whole organisation at his aerodrome at Jodhpur.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to declare open the Willingdon Air Station and at the same time to hoist officially for the first time the Air Ensign which has been adopted by India as the flag of Commercial Aviation. In doing so let me express the hope, which I am sure will be shared by all who are present here today, that the Air Ensign will fly proudly over the Willingdon and other Air Stations in this country as a symbol of India's determination to take her part in the world-wide development of Civil Aviation.

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**OPENING OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.**

3rd March 1936.      His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the Inaugural Meeting of the Indian Institute of International

*Opening of the Inaugural Meeting of the Indian Institute of International Affairs.*

Affairs at the Viceroy's House on Tuesday, the 3rd March 1936 :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—*I need hardly say that it gives me very great pleasure to preside at this meeting which has for its object the establishment of a branch in India of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Many of you here this evening are, like myself, members of the Parent Institute in London, but to those who are not I would like to say a very few words in order to enlighten you as to the aims and objects for which the Institute was established. Briefly they are as follows :—

Firstly, the encouragement of the study and understanding of International problems which in these days of increasingly rapid communication become more and more important for every country year by year.

Secondly, the provision and maintenance of sources of information upon International Affairs by means of lectures and discussions and by the preparation of records and reports.

And thirdly, to promote the exchange of information, knowledge and thought on International Affairs, and the understanding of the circumstances, conditions and views of nations and peoples.

I do not intend to dilate on these points, for we have the good fortune to have with us this evening one who is much better qualified to do so than I am. I refer to Commander Stephen King-Hall, the official representative of the Council of the Royal Institute who has undertaken this long journey in order to help us with the formation of our Branch out here, and I am sure you would wish to join with me in extending to him a very cordial welcome and to assure him that we shall all be extremely grateful to him for any advice and help that he can give us.

*Opening of the Inaugural Meeting of the Indian Institute of International Affairs.*

There is one particular matter, however, that I should like to stress and that is that the Institute is strictly non-political in character. I myself as Viceroy of India am an Honorary President along with the Prime Ministers of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The Presidents of the Institute comprise the leaders of all shades of political thought. This, to my mind, is a most important point which we would do well to bear in mind upon this occasion of the inauguration of our Branch.

One more word and I have done. The Headquarters of the Institute in London are situated in London at Chatham House, the freehold of which premises were purchased as a result of a magnificent donation of a Canadian gentleman and his wife, Colonel and Mrs. R. W. Leonard. Anyone who has been fortunate enough to visit Chatham House will appreciate to the full how greatly the Institute is indebted to these very generous Empire fellow citizens of ours. Many other generous gifts have been made, and I hope that if, as I firmly believe, the Indian Branch attains the importance that it should, a "Chatham House" will be established in India where meetings may be held and a first class library of books and other documents on international subjects may be installed for the benefit of our members.

The growing interest of India in international questions is a justification for the step that we are now about to take. Accurate information is most necessary on the various issues which now dominate the international situation and by which India is affected, and this is one of the services which the proposed Institute will provide.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now proceed with the Agenda which is before us, and I will ask Sir Eric

*Opening of the Willingdon Park and Stadium at Jodhpur.*

Miéville to read some of the Messages of Greetings which have been received.

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### OPENING OF THE WILLINGDON PARK AND STADIUM AT JODHPUR.

His Excellency the Viceroy performed the Opening Ceremony of the Willingdon Park and Stadium at Jodhpur, on Tuesday, the 17th March 1936, and made the following speech :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I need hardly say what a pleasure it is to me to have been able to come to Jodhpur today and I am indeed grateful for having the pleasant privilege of opening the Willingdon Gardens. But my pleasure is somewhat tinged with regret, for I am also here to bid farewell to a Ruling Prince whom I think I can truly say I have known ever since his boyhood, who has entirely fulfilled the great hopes we had of him when he first was called on to undertake his great responsibilities 13 years ago, and who has always shown me the greatest friendship and kindness during the years I have lived in India.*

Let me add that I was determined, if possible, to come over today in order that I might show my appreciation to Your Highness in your own capital and before your own subjects, before I lay down the reins of my office as Viceroy in a very few weeks from now.

Although Your Highness informs me that the complete project is not yet finished, I am sure all present will join me in paying tribute to the beauty of the buildings and gardens which now surround us and which evoke the most genuine admiration not only for their symmetry and order, but also for their unique setting. Nothing grander could be conceived than this back-ground of towering walls

*Opening of the Willingdon Park and Stadium at Jodhpur.*

and ramparts. To all who in the future will walk in these pleasant gardens of an evening or play games in the stadium, the sight of these old battlements looking out over the wide horizons of Marwar will be an ever-present reminder that the centuries of Rajput battle and strife are stored up in those stones, and that the young Rathor Prince who is now their guardian embodies all that is best of ancient chivalry and modern ideas.

To Your Highness is due the original idea of creating these gardens and buildings and now that we see the translation of those first thoughts into concrete shape, we must acknowledge the great and permanent boon that Your Highness has bestowed on the townspeople of Jodhpur. These gardens will offer recreation, as Your Highness so truly remarks, both for the minds and bodies of generations of Jodhpur townsfolk ; they will be a haunt of beauty and peace where the toiling workers may come in the evenings and obtain rest and renewed strength for the morrow.

I should like to add my tribute of praise to that already expressed by Your Highness when you referred to the services rendered by Mr. Edgar, Mr. Goldstraw and Mr. Mustoe and the Public Works Department staff in the completion of this work.

I need hardly say how sorry Lady Willingdon is that she could not be with me today to see these gardens which will bear our name ; but Your Highness can readily understand how great is the pressure of our engagements at present and how difficult we find it to meet all the demands that are made on our time.

It does, however, afford me the most genuine pleasure to find myself in Jodhpur today, and I am proud and grateful to Your Highness for having decided to name these beautiful gardens after me and for asking me to open them today. Before declaring them open, however, I would like to take this last opportunity of bidding Your Highness,

*Address from the Muslim University Court, Aligarh.*

on behalf of my wife and myself, a most genuine and affectionate farewell and give our assurance that, though we are shortly about to leave India, we shall carry away cherished memories of our friendship with Your Highness and Your Highness' family, and we earnestly hope that many opportunities will still occur in the future to keep alive a friendship that we value so deeply.

I now have great pleasure in declaring the Willingdon Gardens open.

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**ADDRESS FROM THE MUSLIM UNIVERSITY COURT,  
ALIGARH.**

His Excellency the Viceroy received an address presented 22nd March  
by the Members of the Muslim University at Aligarh on Sunday, 1936.  
the 22nd March 1936, and replied in the following terms :—

*Your Exalted Highness, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Let me thank you first for the loyal sympathy which you have expressed with His Majesty the King-Emperor and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary in the loss which they and the whole British Empire recently sustained in the death of His late Majesty, King George V. The universality of His late Majesty's interest in everything pertaining to his vast and far-flung Dominions is reflected in the universality of the grief which his death has evoked. It is no wonder that, in the course of a life dedicated to public service, His late Majesty should have been brought into personal touch with this institution. His Majesty the present King-Emperor and Queen Mary will, I feel sure, deeply appreciate the message of condolence which the authorities of the University wish me to communicate to them. I readily charge myself with the duty which you have entrusted to me in this behalf.*

*Address from the Muslim University Court, Aligarh.*

It is a very real joy to me that, before the end of my long period of service in India, I have at last been able to visit Aligarh, to see with my own eyes an institution which has played a great and a prominent part in the development of education in India. The pleasure is enhanced by the presence here today of your new Chancellor and my old friend, His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, to whose hereditary and munificent interest in the University you have paid a just tribute. May I say that to what he and his distinguished forbears have done for the University His Exalted Highness has added greatly by his acceptance of the office of Chancellor. A Prince with so many pressing and important pre-occupations lays even a national institution like Aligarh under a special obligation when he assumes what I am sure you will agree is a position of considerable responsibility.

Aligarh is indeed fortunate in its traditions. The rare vision and unique courage of its founder, Sir Sayed Ahmad, helped to establish the old Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College as the centre where his co-religionists could embrace a wider learning—a synthesis of western and Islamic cultures. Here Muslims were to be imbued with modern knowledge, and to be trained in a spirit of discipline and progress with a view to their community being enabled to render still more effectively their contribution to the right development of Indian life. The records of this University and of the College which preceded it indicate that these lofty ideals have been fulfilled; in many walks of life there are Aligarh men who are bearing the torch of their *alma mater* in a wider sphere.

It is a matter of special gratification and pride to me that men and women of my race have played no mean part in building up these traditions. Two of them, Sir Theodore Morison and Miss Beck, have alas ! only lately departed this life. I share with you the sense of loss that you must

*Address from the Muslim University Court, Aligarh.*

be feeling in this breach of living links with the past. May the inspiring heritage of traditions and ideals which, with the great men of your own race, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, whom you have mentioned, they, in modest measure, helped to create, be a source of progressive inspiration to you and your successors in the years to come.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, I have listened with much interest to the address which you have just delivered. Time will not permit of my touching on all the points that you have mentioned, suggestive as they are. I shall, however, say a few words in reply to your appeal that the Government of India will come generously to your assistance and enable you to maintain the all-India character of the University. As you are aware, when the University was established, the Government of India fixed their recurring contribution at Rs. one lakh per annum. This was in 1920. In 1926 it was raised to one and a quarter lakhs and in 1930 to three lakhs. In addition to this, more than twenty lakhs of rupees have been awarded from time to time in capital grants. You will agree that, considering the many pressing calls on Government resources, this is no mean record of financial response to the needs of the University. Since 1932 the recurring grant to the University has been reduced by 10 per cent.; a cut to which all grants made by the Government of India have been subject. I understand that, during the last few months, a request has been made to my Government that, as this reduction compelled the University to reduce the salaries of the staff and as Government have restored the cuts made in the salaries of their own employees, the cut of Rs. 30,000 in the annual grant of the University should be restored. I am glad to be able to announce that we have decided to make this restoration for each of the three Universities that are in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from Central Revenues. I refer to Aligarh, Benares and

*Address from the Muslim University Court, Aligarh.*

Delhi. I shall not anticipate the terms of the official communication that you will receive, I hope shortly, on the subject. At the moment I would merely emphasise, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, that we expect the University of Aligarh to utilise the amount restored towards the purpose which weighed with us most in deciding to restore the cut, namely, the restoration of the cuts on the individual salaries of the staff. The health and well-being of this as of all Universities depend primarily upon the efficient labours of their teaching staff, and for that very reason it is essential that their conditions of work and service shall be such as to promote willing and enthusiastic service.

I shall now conclude, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, with an expression of gratitude for the distinction that the University has been good enough to confer on me, and for the generous terms in which you have referred to such services as my wife and I have been able to render to India during our 16 years' association with her. We have for India an affection nearly as great as our love for our own homeland. We shall leave her with a regret equal to the measure of our affection, regret made endurable only by memories of the friendships that we have formed, the kindness that we have always received, and the interest in her future that will last as long as we live. For the distinction that the University has conferred on me today, my sense of appreciation is heightened by the presence, for the occasion, of His Exalted Highness the Chancellor. I shall cherish both equally, the distinction and memories of the occasion. And, now, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Farewell. May the future of the institution, to which you have practically dedicated your life, be even more glorious than its past. And let my last word be that I trust that present and future students of this great college may do useful, brilliant service for their country and the British Empire.

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DINNER GIVEN BY THE HON'BLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the 23rd March Dinner given by the Hon'ble Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy at Maiden's Hotel, Delhi, on Monday, the 23rd March 1936 :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—* It is difficult, impossible for me to express in any satisfactory language tonight all I feel after listening to the perfectly charming and most generous speech in which Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy has commended the toast of the health of my wife and myself for the acceptance of this most distinguished gathering that I see around me, a speech which coming as it does from the lips of one whose friendship we have enjoyed during the greater part of our lives in this country is expressed in such terms that we are both encouraged to hope that such humble services as we have given here during the past 16 years may not have been altogether without some value. I can do no more than thank you, Sir, from the bottom of my heart for the tribute you have paid to our labours amongst you, and thank you all too, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the very cordial manner in which you have received the toast. Let me add that while it must be left to the historian of the future to endorse or deny all the most gratifying things you have said about my administration, I am sure we shall all agree with every word you have said in reference to my wife and, I would like to use your own words in saying what I have often said as to her activities with all sincerity before, that I have always known that “my own career would have been devoid of the continuous enthusiasm in many matters but for the invigorating influence of my wife's great personality”.

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Standing as I do here tonight by the side of our host, the President of the Council of State, who has conducted the affairs of that Chamber with such dignity and fairness for the past three years, I can't help recalling to my mind

*Dinner given by the Hon'ble Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.*

those days when I first arrived in Bombay 23 years ago and first became associated with the Parliamentary work of that Province, and I want to tell you from my recollections how much I think we have liberalised our Parliamentary procedure since those days, especially as far as the position of President is concerned. I found when I started my work at Bombay I was not only Governor but also President of the Legislative Council and as such I was in the commanding position of not only attending to my ordinary duties in seeing that all rules of order were carried out from the Chair but was entitled to have the last word as Head of the Government on any debate that arose in the Council and could use my best powers to influence the Members of Council in favour of Government's position before I put the matter to the vote. I remember, too, that when I first took the Chair my three colleagues and I were placed at an upper table facing all Hon'ble Members, rather like a bench of magistrates, which gave us a considerable advantage in debate. It is true that before I had been there long I altered the seating arrangements under which I found myself alone in the Chair and my colleagues were on the Government benches like other Members below me, but I always had the privilege of having the last word from the Chair so long as I lived in Bombay. Those were indeed the good old days of the authoritative life of a Governor of a Province. When I went to Madras, my first duty was to inaugurate the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, and I was soon to discover that as Governor I was to lose entirely my authoritative position that I had held in the Council Chamber in Bombay, and that I had to nominate a President for the first Parliament after which he was to be elected by the free vote of the Members of the Legislature. But this much was left me, that I had a private box in the Strangers' Gallery from which I could listen to the

*Dinner given by the Hon'ble Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.*

debate and hear words of wisdom pouring forth from Hon'ble Members in the Chamber. But there are two things in reference to my relations with the Legislative Council in Madras, which remain very vividly in my mind and which I wish to refer to tonight. The first is the recollection of an old friend in Madras whom I nominated as the first President of the new Legislative Council, Sir P. Rajagopalachari, one of the best and truest friends and advisers I ever had in India and who was the greatest help to me when we started the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms Scheme in that Presidency on entirely constitutional lines. And the second is an occasion which I well remember when my wife and I presented the President's Chair to the Legislative Council, which I trust will remind Members for many long years of two people who lived for five very happy years in that Presidency and endeavoured to do their best while they were there for the welfare of the people.

On my arrival at Delhi I found that the association of the Viceroy with the Legislative Chambers was still further curtailed, for I found myself in exactly the same position as I was when I was Governor-General of Canada, and except on special occasions was not allowed to enter the sacred portals of the two Legislative Chambers or be refreshed by listening to the floods of oratory which I understand are poured forth there day by day.

One thing more I must say about my associations with the great majority of Hon'ble Members of all the Legislative Chambers with which I have been connected during the past 16 years. I should like gratefully to thank them for the courtesy and consideration with which they have invariably treated me, and for the personal friendship they have shown me, which will always remain with me as one of the many happy recollections of my life in India.

*Dinner given by the Hon'ble Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.*

And, Ladies and Gentlemen, in the few minutes that I shall further detain you, now that in a few weeks' time I shall be giving up my official life amongst you, I want to give you a very short account of my stewardship during the past five years, and show you the main purpose I have had in view since I have lived amongst you in regard to my administrative life. As you are all well aware, within a few months after my arrival, there was a serious recrudescence of civil disobedience activity both in the United Provinces and the North-West Frontier Province, and this was followed very shortly by a restarting of the whole civil disobedience campaign which had caused such terrible trouble and distress during the period of office of my predecessor. It therefore became necessary for my Government to fight the movement to the utmost of our power very soon after I took over my duties as Governor-General. And why ? Because we felt then and still feel that the policy as it was conducted if allowed to make headway would spell ruin and disaster to the peace of the country and the economic condition of all classes of the people. And we had another reason. We wanted to secure peaceful conditions in the country so as to push on with constitutional Reforms.

And what has been the result of our efforts ? I think I can claim that the country is more peaceful today than it has been for a good many years. I think I can claim, too, that the authority of Government has been completely restored, and that owing to the restoration of peaceful conditions, confidence is returning and the relations between our two races are greatly improved, and the best evidence that the general economic condition of the country is slowly but steadily improving is surely shown by the fact that my Hon'ble Colleague the Finance Member, has been able to produce the most satisfactory budget statement that we have had for the past five years.

*Dinner given by the Hon'ble Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.*

And with regard to the Reforms, the Bill has been passed, and in a few months the full responsibility of the administration of all the Provinces will rest on the shoulders of Indians, and I trust that there will be no unnecessary delay in establishing the full Federal scheme.

It is perfectly true that there has been much adverse criticism of the Reforms Act. We are told by some that many terrible things are going to happen when provincial autonomy comes into operation, but I am convinced that when the Ministries are formed in the various Provinces, whatever their political complexion may be, those Ministries will carry out their duties with a due sense of their great responsibilities and with a fixed purpose to promote the highest interests of all classes of people under their care.

I can claim that one of the main purposes of my life ever since I arrived in this country has been to develop, encourage and help forward Indians in order that they may fit themselves for the complete administration of their own affairs ; indeed, I can truly say that I have always worked out here with a set purpose in my mind to do everything I could to give Indians every chance of arriving at a position of complete equality with the other Dominions under the Crown ; of being full partners in the life of the British Empire ; of arriving at their goal of Dominion Status. There can be no doubt that the new Reforms Act is a great step forward towards your goal and the time of test and trial to all Indian politicians when they undertake their new and heavy responsibilities. I have always felt that it was a providential arrangement when our two races came together over a hundred years ago to co-operate with a view to securing peaceful administration and fair treatment for all classes of the people in India. No one can deny that that co-operation has in the past brought many advantages to this country.

*Dinner given by the Hon'ble Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.*

The rapidity with which you can advance towards your goal will now very largely depend on you Indians yourselves. We British will be here to help you on your way, striving and with all sincerity to see that you succeed in proving worthy of your task. May I, as a very old friend and well-wisher, give you one word of warning with regard to your future. India can never attain that national life which in all democratic countries is essential until she can get rid of the bitterness of this communal difference which we find all around us and which, as I have often said, is a canker that is steadily eating into your body-politic at the present time. India will never attain that national life until individuals will work entirely for the good of their country and not merely for their personal advancement or gain. It is my profound hope when under this new Reforms Act parties come into existence, as in other countries, supporting different political principles, that those parties will consist of members of different communities who hold the same views, and that this will help to get rid of that communal strife which is such a terrible handicap to your political advance. And when the time comes that you reach your goal, when His Majesty's Government can say to you : "We have fulfilled our great trust, we can hand over the complete administration of your country into your own hands" ; my prophecy is this that we shall still find Indians and British co-operating, working, associating together for the good of this great country and the progress and prosperity of its people.

In a few short weeks I shall be severing my official connection with this country, and my wife and I will be giving up all those interests and associations which have given us such opportunities of service to the people. When we leave you we shall do so with the deepest sorrow and regret, for India has in very truth been to us our second Empire home which has given us shelter.

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*Annual General Meeting of St. John Ambulance Association  
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hospitality and friendship for 16 years. Believe me, India will never be a land of regrets to us two, for we shall never forget that we have been surrounded by goodwill and kindness on every hand. I think we know our own limitations and this we can say from the depths of our hearts and consciences, that we have worked all our lives here to secure friendship, co-operation and good understanding between our two races. We have laboured in our several ways to secure the welfare and progress of the Princes and people of India. We have striven to see that we all worked together with a common effort for a common purpose, that India should remain in the future, as in the past, the "Brightest Jewel in the Empire's Crown".

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST. JOHN  
AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE INDIAN RED  
CROSS SOCIETY.**

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the 25th March Annual General Meeting of St. John Ambulance Association 1936. and the Indian Red Cross Society on Wednesday, the 25th March 1936 :—

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*Sir David Petrie has already alluded to the event which has cast a shadow of sorrow over the whole of this year—the death of His Majesty King George V who was the Sovereign Head of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and Patron of the British Red Cross Society. We mourn the loss not of a figure-head patron but of one who took the keenest personal interest in our activities and was ever our most sympathetic and generous supporter. It was good that His Majesty was spared to see that great demonstration of the loyalty and profound love with which he had

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inspired his peoples which took place on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties' accession only last summer. Nowhere were more affectionate or enthusiastic feelings of loyalty displayed than in India and tangible proof has been given of the genuine sincerity of those feelings in the magnificent sum, which has now reached the total of about 143 lakhs of rupees, which the Princes and people of India have contributed to the Silver Jubilee Fund which we raised to commemorate the occasion by the relief of sickness and suffering in India in the name of Their Majesties. Both the Indian Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association are benefiting by a share in that fund and no better use could be made of the money. One object for which these special funds are to be used is for Disaster Relief, a matter of special and melancholy interest to me, as during my term of office two disasters of unprecedented severity have occurred in Bihar and Quetta which have caused widespread havoc and suffering. It has been—and doubtless would be again, should need arise—the duty and privilege of the Viceroy to make a public appeal for funds on such occasions, but there must necessarily be a certain interval before the response comes. The Red Cross Disaster Fund is intended to enable the Society to take immediate relief measures without waiting for any public appeal. That the first days after a disaster are often those in which most suffering occurs was again demonstrated after the terrible Quetta Earthquake, and I am glad that Sir David Petrie has given you an account of the fine work done by the Punjab and Sind Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance contingents, which were among the first to arrive on the spot. I had occasion shortly after the disaster to convey my personal thanks to some of those workers in Quetta and Lahore. But I should like again to add my word of appreciation now to what the Chairman

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has said, and I hope it will reach those whom I have not already thanked personally. Such occasions are indeed a reminder of the need to recruit more ambulance and nursing divisions, and I hope a time will soon come when every place of importance in India will have its own trained and uniformed division.

The reports of the St. John's Ambulance Association and Brigade show encouraging progress. I am glad to hear that more ladies are now attending Home Nursing classes. I have heard with great interest that the first Voluntary Aid Detachment of ladies has now been enrolled in Calcutta. Those of us who remember the useful work of the V. A. Ds. in the War will not doubt that every country should have such a voluntary nursing reserve ready for emergencies whether in peace or war.

I note from the Red Cross report that a good proportion of the Red Cross funds was spent in assisting hospitals. I should like to take this opportunity of saying a few words about the hospitals in this country, many of which Her Excellency and I have visited personally. Although generous patrons of hospitals are not lacking, as the reports before us show, I have sometimes felt sad at the lack of interest shown by the ordinary citizen in the hospital of his city or district and especially in the mofussil hospital away from the public eye. It has almost seemed as if the public, knowing that the Government had undertaken the responsibility of providing minimum service to meet the most urgent need of the sick, consider that they have no further interest in hospitals. This apathy has led to many hospitals being starved for funds and unable in consequence to provide nurses or even elementary comforts for their patients. May I appeal to all of you who hear or read these words to endeavour to shake off this apathy ? Her Excellency and I would wish

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no better memorial to our time in India than a resolve on the part of her citizens that the care of the sick in this vast country should become a personal interest to each one and that no hospital should lack support through their neglect. Though many hospitals are benefiting through the Silver Jubilee collections, such grants are a mere drop in the ocean of need. Furthermore it is not money alone that is needed but personal service and interest in the sick and in those who devote their lives to relieving their sufferings.

The Chairman has referred to the steps taken by the Indian Red Cross Society to help the wounded in the war in Abyssinia. I have had a letter of very grateful thanks for the assistance which the Society has given from the British Minister at Addis Ababa, and I should like to read you just one sentence from his letter. He says "the stuff sent us through the Indian Red Cross is the best supplied from anywhere and the Unit equipped with it by the Ethiopian Women's Association has one of the best records and has got further north and nearer the actual fighting there than any other". That is a high testimonial from one on the spot of which we may very well be proud.

I must thank all those public-spirited workers who have given their services not only during 1935, but at all times to these two great institutions, the St. John's Ambulance Association and Brigade and the Indian Red Cross Society. The latter Society recently had to bid farewell to Dr. Ruth Young on her transfer to the Lady Hardinge Medical College as Principal. Her Excellency and I know full well what Dr. Young has done not only at Headquarters, but through her tours all over India to raise the standard of child welfare and to help those who are struggling to improve the conditions of India's mothers and children. I am sure you would wish me to

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express our gratitude to Dr. Young for all that she has done for the Indian Red Cross Society and wish her a long and happy career in her new and important sphere of work. I should like also to welcome most cordially Dr. Orkney who has now succeeded Dr. Young.

I am very sorry also to have to announce that Sir David Petrie has handed me his resignation, as from the date of this meeting, of the triple office which he has so efficiently filled since December 1932 as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the St. John's Ambulance Association, Chief Commissioner of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas and Chairman of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society. Sir David has put in 3½ years of very strenuous work. Nobody perhaps realises how strenuous, who has not himself had intimate contact with the affairs of the nine funds which are connected with the Red Cross in India. He is the first Chief Commissioner of the Brigade to have inspected every single district in turn. His wise guidance and impartial judgment made him a valuable chairman whom we shall all miss very much. I have nominated Sir Ernest Burdon who has been Honorary Treasurer of the Association and Society for several years to succeed Sir David, and am grateful to him for consenting to undertake the office.

This will be the last Annual General Meeting over which I shall have the honour to preside. Looking back over the past five years I am happy to say that these two organisations have gone steadily forward and have attained an honourable position in the International Red Cross world. In one respect however they compare unfavourably with most other countries, and that is in the small proportion of the population enrolled as members. Last year the Indian Red Cross membership rose from sixteen thousand to eighteen thousand, but ought not that figure

*Farewell address from the Citizens of Delhi.*

to stand rather at eighteen lakhs ? I hope in future years to hear that that goal actually has been attained.

It only remains now for me to bid you all farewell and to assure you that Her Excellency and I regret extremely having to give up very shortly our association with these great organisations in India. We thank you gratefully for coming here today and for all the help you have all given to promote their best interests. I trust that both associations will continue to show increasing success and activity in their beneficent work and service to all classes of the people of India.

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FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF DELHI.

1st April  
1936.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech in reply to the Farewell Address presented by the Citizens of Delhi on Wednesday, the 1st April 1936 :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—* It is with feelings of deep gratitude, tinged with regret, that I have listened to the charming remarks which you, Sir, on behalf of the people of Delhi, have addressed to Her Excellency and myself on the eve of our departure from India. Gratitude at the thought that you have seen fit to applaud and appreciate such services as we have been able to render during the time that we have been privileged to live amongst you, and regret at the knowledge that we are so soon to sever our long and happy associations with the Princes and people of India and our connection with this historic City and thus to say good-bye to so many friends from whom we have ever received such constant kindness and courtesy. In this regard I cannot refrain from thanking you, Sir, for your last kindly act in pressing no demands upon me when we are meeting here on the occasion of my farewell.

I am particularly pleased to know that there is a complete absence of distinction between Delhi and New

*Farewell address from the Citizens of Delhi.*

Delhi in this afternoon's function since our hosts are drawn from the Delhi Province as a whole. Although it has not fallen to our lot to reside on both sides of the Delhi urban area, as was the case with our immediate predecessors, and although our interest in the development of New Delhi and its immediate surroundings has been great, I hope it will be realised that Her Excellency and I have striven throughout to hold the balance fair in respect to all Delhi interests. Matters affecting local bodies throughout the whole urban area are so closely and inextricably bound up with one another—whether it be a question of Public Health, Hospitals, electricity, water-supply, drainage, relief of congestion or education—that their problems must necessarily be regarded as a whole. Further I would add that in my opinion the rural area surrounding the Capital is of primary importance, more particularly as regards prevention of disease and improvement of communications—so much so that it is my earnest hope that in the very near future the rural area of the Delhi Province in matters of uplift and improvement may become a model for the rest of India.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not intend to detain you longer. Her Excellency and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the many kindnesses you have shown us in the past five years and although we shall very shortly be leaving you on our return to our own Homeland, this great Capital City will always have a particularly warm corner in our hearts.

We shall, I assure you, carry away with us lasting recollections of the good wishes of the citizens of Delhi and New Delhi. In return may I say that those good wishes are reciprocated to the full by Her Excellency and myself. We trust that you will not forget us, as indeed we shall always remember you.

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### HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO THE COMBINED LEGISLATURES.

8th April  
1936.

His Excellency in addressing the Combined Legislatures on Wednesday, the 8th April 1936, made the following speech :—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen,—*It is not my intention this morning to give you any detailed account of the work done by Government during the past year. My purpose is as shortly as possible to show you that there has been considerable and satisfactory development and progress in all branches of our administration during the past five years and to give you my hopes for the future of India. But before doing so I must ask you to bear with me for a few moments while I say something of a very personal nature.

I think you may imagine my feelings as I stand before you all this morning on this, the last occasion that I shall have the privilege of addressing Hon'ble Members of our two Legislatures ; for in a few days I shall be giving up my official life amongst you with all its engrossing interest and occupation ; I shall be digging up roots which during the past 23 years have grown down very deep, for I have learnt in these years to have a heartfelt and abiding regard and affection for India, her Princes and her people. I shall leave you with feelings of the deepest sorrow and regret, but alas ! with the knowledge that the age-limit has been reached and the time has come for my departure.

But there is one incident in my life here which has caused me some distress, and as it refers to a matter connected with the Legislatures, I feel bound to mention it to you before I go. I regret extremely the calculated courtesy that has been shown me by Hon'ble Members who represent the Congress party, when I have come here as His Majesty the King-Emperor's representative to address the Assembly or have in that capacity sent

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*His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.*

messages to be read to the House. I am sure that this action on the part of Congress Members has met with the disapproval of every loyal citizen of India.

Apart from this, I shall leave you when I go with feelings of the deepest gratitude—gratitude for the many friendships made on sound and sure foundations—gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in the sincerity of my desire throughout my life here to work for the highest interest of India—and I profoundly hope that, when I am gone, even those who have most objected to my every administrative action may find in the future that my labours have been for India's good.

Yes, I shall look back on a long life in India with constant memories of all its joys and sorrows, its failures and successes, its work and play, and shall always be grateful to India for having given me this wonderful opportunity of doing what I hope may prove to be useful service for my Sovereign, for India and for the British Empire.

Before going on to speak of the situation in India itself, I must say a few words on the state of affairs outside her borders. I am glad to feel that during my term of office the relations between the Government of India and the countries which lie on India's frontiers have been peaceful and friendly. If there have been some incidents on the Frontier for the solution of which Military operations have been necessary, I can still claim that progress has been made towards the establishment of more settled conditions in this area. If, as I hope, our present policy of gradual penetration by consent and negotiation is quietly and consistently pursued, I do not doubt that my successors in this high office will find the frontier problem far less troublesome in the future than it has proved in the past.

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There is another aspect also of our external affairs, which has been mentioned regularly in almost all my addresses to Hon'ble Members, namely, the position of Indians overseas. It is a subject which arouses the keenest interest throughout India as touching national self-respect ; it is a subject on which all sections of non-official opinion, both inside and outside the Central Legislature, are equally and, if I may say so, rightly sensitive.

It is not my purpose today to recapitulate, in detail, the issues affecting Indian interests that have arisen during my term of office in different parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the steps that my Government have taken to protect those interests, or the outcome of those efforts. The spokesmen of my Government in both the Houses have, from time to time, stated what we have striven for and what we have achieved. If success has not always been equal to our expectations, it has not been for want of earnest and strenuous endeavour. And, let me add that the powerful support of the Secretary of State for India has, throughout my five years of office, been unfailingly and wholeheartedly given to our advocacy of the Indian cause. Unanimity between Indian and official opinion has happily been the keynote of this particular chapter of our history. May this always be so. To men of my own civilisation, throughout the Empire, who influence opinion or guide policy I venture to make an earnest appeal. That splendid political organisation, the British Commonwealth of Nations, in which we all take just pride can endure only if all its constituent parts have faith in one another. The measure of the permanence of their mutual association will depend on their mutual contentment. India has the pride of an ancient civilisation. She is, therefore, quick to resent any kind of discrimination against her sons and daughters who have settled

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in other parts of the Empire. She is confident of a future destiny, no less glorious than her past and, therefore, impatient of delay in the removal of disabilities on Indians where these exist. Equality of status is their due ; its progressive realisation is the aim of the Government of India and, if I may say so, an obligation on all statesmen throughout the Empire who desire its solidarity. I am confident that, in the pursuit of their aim, the Government of India will never falter. May those whose obligation it is to ensure its speedy fulfilment be given the vision and the strength to work for prompt and generous fulfilment of their duty.

Here in India itself, among the questions which have given me and, I am sure, all thoughtful men increasing concern is that of the unemployment and distress prevailing among many of our educated young men. Our colleges and schools are turning out in immense numbers men who seek employment, particularly in the professions, and fail to obtain it. The matter has received attention from a considerable number of Committees, but I do not think I am indulging in any invidious comparisons if I say that the report recently published by the Committee which sat under the Chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru carries us nearer than any previous report to the heart of the question.

While opinions will naturally differ regarding the wisdom and the probable effect of the remedies which should be applied, I believe that the main lines along which this great problem must be tackled are becoming increasingly clear. "Demand and supply" is a phrase which brings for many rather unpleasant suggestions, particularly when it is applied in the human sphere. We must resolutely set our faces against any idea that human lives and souls can be regarded as a commodity. But if we

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are to achieve anything in our assault on this problem, we must begin by facing facts, however unpleasant they are, and we must recognise that we have here a supply of young men for whose services there is no effective demand. No solution therefore can succeed which does not adjust the immense disparity which, as all are agreed, exists at present.

There are two possible methods of adjustment in such a position : we can adjust by attention to the demand and we can adjust by attention to the supply. I believe myself that we should do both, but I should be failing in courage if I did not say that the main emphasis will have to be on the adjustment of supply. No adjustments of which I can conceive will provide all those who are now seeking employment with Government jobs, professional careers or responsible posts in industry. Whatever changes you introduce, even if these changes are of an almost revolutionary character, you will not create a society capable of giving the increasing stream of academically educated men posts of the kind to which, having regard to the sacrifices and efforts they have made, they feel themselves entitled to aspire.

There has been a tendency to look to industrialisation for a solution. I am in full sympathy with those who seek the development of our industries. Here the period of my life that has been spent in India—a fleeting moment in the ages of India's history—has seen a tremendous advance. I hope that the years to come will carry it far further. But do not let us deceive ourselves or our young men with the hope that developments along this line will absorb the present output of our schools and colleges in responsible position. To anyone who cherishes that hope I suggest that he should try to frame an estimate of the number of men from our colleges who have such posts

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today. He will then be able to judge of the number of such posts that will be provided by expansion—on any scale he likes to choose—and I believe that he will be surprised at the result.

So I come myself to the conclusion suggested by the Sapru Committee's Report that unemployment has to be tackled at the source. This does not mean that we must abandon the efforts to increase the sphere of employment. Far from it ; these efforts must be pursued and increased. But efforts to expand the professional and industrial spheres do not touch the source of the evil. That lies in a system which diverts the energy and enthusiasm of the young into channels which, too often, end in the desert. If this growing evil is not to overwhelm them—and us—the educational system will have to be adjusted to bear a much closer relation to the needs of the country. Many still lack the elements of education while others are assisted and encouraged to go on in directions which, as they discover too late, end in disappointment and frustration.

It is fortunate that educationists, who are disturbed by the congestion which is caused in high schools and colleges by the presence of large and ever-growing numbers of pupils and students who are ill-fitted to receive a purely literary form of education, have been thinking and planning along similar lines. The Central Advisory Board of Education has examined this vital matter in some detail and has stressed the importance of dividing up the school course into a number of stages, each with its own clearly defined objective. A strong lead has thus been given, and I earnestly hope that that lead will be followed up by Local Governments with whom the main responsibility for educational reconstruction lies. In the colleges you must demand quality rather than quantity ; for in every society, be it as democratic as you like, the progress and welfare

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of the State depend to a remarkable degree on the few men that are called to leadership, and it is of the utmost importance that these should receive the best training you can give.

This problem of unemployment is probably only part of a larger problem—that presented by the rapid growth of population, and there again my last word must be that in my opinion India is faced with the choice between quality and quantity. Numbers do not make a nation great ; and in India you must struggle, not for abundance, but for fulness of human life.

I have said that I fully sympathise with those who seek the development of Indian industries. But India is predominantly and by nature an agricultural country, and I have therefore always been anxious to do everything possible to develop the science of agriculture in this country. To this end the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has continued to forge ahead with its task of initiating, promoting and co-ordinating research which has for its object the improvement of the efficiency of the cultivator and an increase in his earnings. The value of this central organisation has now been established beyond doubt.

It is a matter of special gratification to me that it has been possible to continue the beneficent work of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research even during a period of financial depression. The special allotment of thirty lakhs which we have been able to make this year from the Rural Development Fund will enable the Council to go ahead with some important schemes of research which would otherwise have been held up.

During the five years that I have held the high office of Governor-General of India the policy which I and my Government have followed in one sphere of our administration has been severely and persistently criticised. We

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have been attacked for the policy which we followed to maintain law or order, or, to use an equally well-known and also more suitable phrase, to prevent any grave menace to the peace and tranquillity of India. But when you give your verdict on my stewardship, I would ask you not merely to repeat the catchword of "repression", I would ask you to compare India as it was in 1931 and 1932 and India as it is today. I claim that it is more peaceful, and as a result of greater tranquillity, more prosperous and happy than it has been for many years. Let us look back for a moment, what were the conditions in those black years, 1931 and 1932? In Bengal numerous serious terrorist outrages had created a very difficult and dangerous situation, a situation far worse than on the previous occasions when terrorism had caused the gravest anxiety to us all. I expressed the hope, when I first addressed the Central Legislature in September 1931 and on another occasion a year later when I again had before me a long list of serious terrorist crimes, that all those who had their country's welfare at heart would not let any feeling of sentimental sympathy blind them to the dangers of this movement, but would give their active support to Government in their efforts to counter it. I can claim, I think, that those hopes have been realised and that my plea for support did not fall on deaf ears, for there has been no serious outrage in the last six months, though certain incidents go to show that the movement and the spirit behind it still persist.

There can be no more distasteful task than that of ordering boys and young men to detention in camps and jails, but I can assure Hon'ble Members that the most scrupulous care is taken by the responsible authorities to ensure that no orders are passed on mere suspicion, but always after the most careful enquiry. No one can regret

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more than I do the necessity which forces us to continue to deprive a large number of young men of their liberty, but I should have failed in my duty to India if I had agreed to any relaxation of our policy or to any action which would lead to a revival of this sinister movement.

Then again we must look back to those days in 1932 when Congress, after a period of intensive preparation, re-opened the civil disobedience campaign, and I and my Government had to use the full resources of the State in fighting and defeating a movement which would otherwise remain as a perpetual menace to orderly government and individual liberty. We can claim that we have had ever-increasing support from the general public, and it has become generally recognised that sterile methods of negation and obstruction do not conduce to the well-being of India or its constitutional advancement. We can claim also that, as soon as the movement was suspended, we were not slow to relax our measures or to remove the ban on associations which had been declared unlawful. I also took the earliest possible opportunity of giving members of the Congress party an opportunity of entering the Central Legislature. But apart from the black months or black years when terrorism or civil disobedience were rampant, there have been other times of crisis and anxiety. There have been times when communist propaganda and the activities of Moscow-trained communists became dangerous, and we have had to take action which has, I think, been effective without being unduly drastic, to prevent the spread of this movement. There have also, to my deep regret, been times when communal disputes have burst out in different parts of the country, and during recent months the situation in the Punjab has caused us all grave anxiety. But there has been a marked improvement in the situation during the last few weeks, and I take this opportunity of

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thanking those leaders who have succeeded in persuading their followers to drop all unconstitutional methods and to strive for the settlement of the dispute by legal and peaceful means. It is my earnest prayer that their efforts will meet with success, and I should rejoice to hear of a final settlement of this dispute by the restoration of complete peace and goodwill in that great Province.

In India's economic history also the past five years have been an eventful period, and it is manifestly impossible for me within the compass of this address to attempt anything in the nature of a comprehensive review. I shall content myself, therefore, with referring to a few of the more important happenings during my time of office.

India, like other countries of the world, has been called upon to face the most severe and most prolonged trade depression of modern times. The strain upon her economic fabric has been great and it is testimony to its inherent strength that she has weathered the storm without recourse to those remedies of despair which have, in so many countries, added to the difficulties of international trade and retarded its recovery.

I would not have you think that I am over-complacent or over-optimistic. It is now generally recognised that so far as the sterling group of countries are concerned, a definite movement towards economic recovery has been in progress for some time past. Hopes have been disappointed in the past, but the present improvement has persisted for a longer period and has, on the whole, shown greater vitality than any of its predecessors. India as a member of the sterling group is sharing in this recovery. Our most recent trade statistics show a welcome and marked increase in our export trade and in our balance of trade in merchandise. The progress may as yet be slow, but accompanied as it is by an improvement in the level of

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prices, a readjustment of the disequilibrium between agricultural and industrial prices and a marked increase in industrial output, it is such as to justify our confident hope for the future.

Within a few months of my arrival in India I was faced with the unpleasant fact that, despite the measures already undertaken in March 1931, the progress of the public revenues for the year 1931-32 gave increasing evidence of their falling very considerably short of the expenditure. The surcharges imposed in September 1931, together with heavy retrenchments in expenditure ordered in the latter part of the year, sufficed to produce the necessary balance in the budget essential to preserve India's credit. The retrenchment measures then undertaken, including the very considerable reduction in military expenditure, have been substantially maintained.

Since that critical year a budget surplus has emerged and, so far as the public revenues provide an index for the purpose, India has happily seen the worst of the depression. The surplus has been used to redeem the pledge to restore the cut in pay, to provide means for the Provincial Governments to undertake measures of rural development, to give direct relief to certain Local Governments, and to reduce direct taxation. I am glad that it has been found possible to proceed another step in this direction in the last year of my office. But with the inevitably heavy liabilities ahead inherent in the introduction of a new constitution, it has been essential to proceed cautiously in this matter. The Provinces are looking to Central Revenues for relief. We await, not without some apprehensions, the recommendations of Sir Otto Niemeyer to this end. If the future of the Railways could be made more secure—if the necessary element of co-operation in

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their success were recognised by the Provinces—the Government of India and the Provincial Governments should, I anticipate, be able to face the financial problems ahead with some confidence.

An important contributing feature of the improvement in the position of the public exchequer has been the fall in interest rates. Whatever views may be held of the significance of this matter—and clearly the improved position in regard to law and order has had a marked effect on public confidence—the fact remains that since 1931 the cost of government (including in this term the Provinces, the railways and the central civil budget) has been reduced in this respect by no less than 8½ crores per annum of which 3½ crores represent a drop in our annual foreign obligations. And in view of the public apprehension expressed when the contrary process was taking place, it must be a subject of gratification to some people that whereas the price of 3½ per cent. Government paper was 53 in September 1931, it now stands not far short of par. This improvement in the credit of the holders of Government securities and the prevailing low interest rates are conditions favourable to India's being able to take advantage of any turn of the tide.

The Government itself has managed in recent years to convert its liabilities into comparatively cheap issues of reasonable maturities, it has been able to consolidate a large portion of its former floating debt, it has reduced the proportion of its foreign obligation, while, through the agency of the Reserve Bank, India has greatly strengthened its foreign assets.

When, on the very eve of the introduction of the new constitution, I turn to survey the improvement in the public finances of India during the past five years and the undoubted return of confidence, I experience fewer

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regrets than I might have done—and indeed, I confess, than at times I have done—in the fact that I have had on occasions to use my special powers to achieve some of these results. Many governments in the world must envy the financial position of the Government of India in the year 1936, and although the recent budget clearly did not satisfy all your aspirations—what Budget ever did?—I confidently believe that the future Federal Finance Minister of India will whole-heartedly applaud our determination to maintain the financial stability and credit of this country.

As I address you for the last time my memory is, as I have already told you, full of the experiences of my long stay in India. My thoughts run back over the succession of varied events during these years. Yet even more cogent now are those personal sympathies and political principles which impel me to draw aside, if I can, the veil concealing the future; for India stands on the very threshold of a momentous change, and I, though I leave you, shall ever be concerned to know how Fortune deals with you.

“ In nature's infinite book of secrecy,  
.. A little I can read ”.

I see just across the threshold self-reliant Provinces, receiving from the Crown great authority, equipped with wide power, each, under the Crown, master in its own house, managing its own affairs, promoting and stimulating its own activities to ends congenial to the tastes, sentiments and condition of its people.

I see the growth of a new political spirit—indeed its stirrings are even now apparent—in whose expanding influence communities will no longer “ war within the bosom of a single State ”; but men, differing it may be in political interest, will agree in desiring above all the

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good of their country and the general well-being of their fellows.

I see, but perhaps, in a less immediate focus, a Central Government, not the result of a compact of contracting Provinces, but exercising by direct devolution from the Crown full authority for those matters of all-India interest, which are—some of them as necessary for the well-being of India as any provincial matter, and others vital to India in a degree to which no provincial matters can attain ;—a Central Government left in no uncertainty of its powers in its field, but possessing a jurisdiction precedent to that of all governments in India and an executive authority protected in the fullest sense against encroachment or challenge ;—a government supported by the obligation laid upon Provinces to avoid all impediment or prejudice to the exercise of its executive authority.

I see developing a jurisprudence based more and more firmly on the broadest philosophical conceptions of the nature of law, and reaching out hands to all vivid schools of legal learning throughout the world. For the Federal Court will interpret the constitution under which you will live. It will elucidate the true character of legislative power. It will adjudicate between disputing governments. It will determine the legitimate scope of the various legislative organs in India. In so doing it will itself explore and will open to legal thought in India a new range of juridical ideas and a more intimate search into the bases of public and private rights and liberties.

Other figures too loom upon my gaze, but I would leave you with the general picture of great problems demanding solutions, wide powers of the Crown entrusted to you, onerous responsibilities laid upon you, and a growing spirit and capacity which will enable you to surmount all difficulties.

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*Farewell Address from the New Delhi Municipal Committee.*

Fortunate are they who will join with you in realising this inspiring future, and my every good wish attends the distinguished statesman who will so soon assume the burdens of the great office which I, with many grateful memories, shall regretfully lay down.

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**FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.**

9th April  
1936.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech in reply to the Farewell Address presented by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on Thursday, the 9th April 1936 :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must thank you, Sir, for your most charming address and for the very generous remarks you have made about Her Excellency and myself. I can assure you that the years we have lived in New Delhi will always count among the happiest of our lives, and it has been a very real pleasure to us both constantly to interest ourselves in the truly remarkable developments that have taken place in the last five years in this, the Capital City of India.*

I remember well that when the New Delhi Municipal Committee presented me with a welcome address in 1931, they made many requests to me, most of which were held not to be practicable at the time owing to the financial stringency which then affected us all, but I am indeed happy to think that today practically all the requests which you made five years ago have now materialized, and I can assure you that I am more than pleased at the results of the efforts that you, Gentlemen, have made to increase the efficiency of your administration and to promote the progress and advance of your Municipality. Indeed I find it difficult to believe that the New Delhi of today is the New Delhi that welcomed Her Excellency and

*Farewell Address from the New Delhi Municipal Committee.*

myself five years ago, when I think of the amazing housing schemes that have been brought into being, the development of Connaught Place and Connaught Circus, the Irwin Amphitheatre, the Institute of Agricultural Research and the splendid Cinemas and Hotels which have sprung up in an incredibly short space of time. And perhaps more significant still is the information you give us that the revenue of the Municipality during the past five years has increased from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 19 lakhs and the population from 40,000 to 80,000.

I was pleased to hear you say, Sir, that you were fully alive to the great civic responsibilities that have been placed upon you and congratulate you warmly on the striking results that you and your fellow members have achieved. With a Capital City like New Delhi, ever growing in size and importance, it will be your constant duty to maintain the high standard which you have set yourselves, secure in the knowledge that the measure of the test of your services lies in the extent of the increase you procure in the well-being and the convenience of the public whom you represent.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, as a citizen of Delhi, I should like to join with the Members of my Municipal Committee in paying my tribute to Her Excellency for the great part she has played in the establishment of the Lady Willingdon Park. Her Excellency has done much for New Delhi since she has lived here, but I venture to think that the Lady Willingdon Park is not the least of her achievements. It has only been made possible by the generous contributions of many of the leading Princes of India at the suggestion of my friend His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal, and it is my earnest hope that Their Highnesses when next they visit Delhi will one and all come and see for themselves the beauty of their gift. I feel sure that they will not be disappointed.

*Princes Dinner.*

Once again, Sir, I thank you for the kind words with which you have bid us good-bye. Though in a very few days we shall be leaving you, we shall never forget you, and we trust that this great Capital City will fulfil its early promise and become the most beautiful City in the British Empire.

## PRINCES DINNER.

14th April 1936. His Excellency the Viceroy was entertained at a Farewell Dinner given by the Ruling Princes of India on Tuesday, the 14th April 1936, and in reply to the toast His Excellency made the following speech :—

*Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I feel that I ought to apologise to this great gathering I see before me tonight for the continued spate of speeches that I have been delivering in the last few weeks. But you may be glad to feel that the fountain of my political oratory will be drying up tonight, and indeed I have little heart to make any long speech to you this evening, for tomorrow we shall be leaving you all, tomorrow we shall be breaking with all those connections and associations in the Capital City of Delhi which have been very dear to us both ; yes, and we shall be severing those close personal and political ties with the Princes of India which we have valued for many long years.*

But I must thank you on behalf of my wife and myself for the generous welcome which you have accorded us, and I should like too to thank and congratulate His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on the charming speech with which he has recommended the toast of our health for your acceptance. I would thank him for the many delightful things he has said with regard to us both, as to the value of the work which we may have achieved in this country, and congratulate a young Ruler with

*Princes Dinner.*

whose State and family I have long had very close friendship and association, on the admirable way in which he has carried out what must I am sure have been no easy task.

With regard to our personal ties with so many Princes in India, I would tonight express my deep gratitude for the true and constant friendship they have always shown us, for the kind hospitality they have always given us and the generosity which they have always shown us in coming to our help in regard to matters of great public concern. And when I speak of their generosity my mind goes back to the four years of the Great War, very soon after I came out as Governor of Bombay, and I recollect the splendid example that was set by all the Princes of India in giving of their utmost at that time as evidence not only of their splendid loyalty to our late lamented Sovereign, but also of their determination to do everything in their power to help to bring that great struggle to a successful issue. Then again I should like to refer to the creation of the Willingdon Sports Club in Bombay, which was started almost entirely owing to the generosity of the Princes of India. Let me tell you the story in a few words. When I decided to form this Club (and let me add that I think this was one of the best things that I have ever done in India, for it has created an atmosphere of friendship and good-will between our two races in that city in a way which nothing else could have done), I wrote round to the Princes of India and asked them if they would help me by taking up debentures to start this Club, and I further informed them that I could not guarantee that they would get back their debenture money, nor could I promise any interest on their investment—not a very encouraging proposition to put before the Ruling Princes. But they felt that the idea was a good one, and as a result of my appeal, almost entirely through

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their generosity I succeeded in raising five and a half lakhs. That Club, I think I can say without any possibility of contradiction, is the most popular Club now in Bombay City. As I have said, it is almost entirely due to the Princes that the erection of that Club became possible. I must confess that the Princes have never received any interest on their investment, but I am glad to say that the Club has been so successful that the debentures are now all paid off. Then again, let us come up to Delhi ; only a few days ago I had the privilege of opening the Lady Willingdon Park, which will add enormously to the amenities of life for the residents in this city, and this has again been made possible entirely through the generosity of the Princes of India ; and I shall never forget when my wife was starting her Jubilee Fund, to commemorate the Jubilee of His late Majesty and Queen Mary, which reached the amazing total of 143 lakhs, and also when I found it necessary to appeal on behalf of the sufferers in those two great catastrophic earthquakes in Bihar and Quetta, the Princes came forward with the utmost generosity to give their best help to the relief of the sufferings of their fellow-citizens in British India.

I have said all this, for I have always been inclined to think that we who live in British India do not always appreciate or recognise the great generosity of the Princes of India in all matters of public concern in British India, and how much they have helped us at any crisis, when it became necessary to raise large funds of money for any great public concern.

And it is equally a great regret to me to sever my political relations with the Princes of India, for the Political Department has been my own special Department ever since I arrived in this country, and has therefore given me a very particular opportunity of securing the

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most intimate relations with Princes both from a political and personal point of view. May I add that I hope when I leave India that the Princes will feel that they have always found in me in all my political relations with them a real personal friend, one who was always ready to advise them whenever they sought advice, one who never interfered with their administration unless it became absolutely necessary, and whose sole purpose was to uphold the dignity, prestige and position of the great Order of Princes in India. No, Sir, the Princes of India are no anachronism, no surviving relic that has no place in the world of today : to my mind they are one of the most vital and important influences in the body-politic of India at the present time.

On a friendly and social occasion such as the present, it is the general rule—and I think a good rule—that all serious business should be scrupulously avoided ; but I hope I may be forgiven if I indulge in just a few words before I leave you about the future that lies before Your Highnesses. You stand now on the threshold of a great constitutional change. Each of you will soon be called upon to give your decision as to whether you will become a partner in the Federation or whether you will stand aside. That decision rests entirely with yourselves and no one can take away from you your responsibility or rob you of your freedom of choice. As Your Highnesses are aware, accusations were some time ago laid against myself and my officers of bringing pressure to bear on the Princes to accept Federation against their better judgment. I am glad that at their last meeting the Chamber of Princes found no difficulty in acquitting us of this charge, and I have certainly no present intention, even if I had the power, at the close of my career in India of committing any such offence. But though the choice must lie with you, I hope that I can claim the right of telling you my

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own opinion. I think, as I have told Your Highnesses before now, that in my opinion it would be nothing short of a disaster not only for India as a whole but for the Princely Order in particular, if the Princes reject the offer of partnership in the new Constitution. An attitude of complete isolation is in these days impossible. Even if you stand aloof from Federation, you cannot hope to remain unaffected by the march of events in British India. Surely then it is better to take part in directing the fortunes of this great country than to deny yourselves the opportunity that will soon be accorded you, and I hope profoundly that the Princes of India will come forward in accordance with their high traditions to play their part in the government of their motherland.

And let me conclude with one final word of counsel. I am speaking to you now not as the Head of the Government of India, but as a friend who has striven for the welfare of your Order, as a friend who is about to bid you all good-bye. If the Princes of India are to uphold their high position and wield the influence that is their due, it is clear that they must put an end as far as possible to all feuds and dissensions among themselves. Your Highnesses will, I feel convinced, agree with me that such dissensions have done in the past and still do much harm to the Order of Princes. Never has the saying that in Unity lies Strength been more true than it is today. Let me earnestly implore you then in your own interests to do all that lies in your power to pursue this ideal and let no personal feelings or jealousies stand in the way. My last word of advice to you is that you should close your ranks and stand shoulder to shoulder for the good of the Order of which we are so justly proud.

And let my last word be this before I go. Friendships made so sound and true as those between myself and Your Highnesses in past years cannot surely be broken

*Farewell Address from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.*

by my departure from India, but I am sure will remain during our lives, and I hope we shall have many opportunities to meet each other in future years. My warmest good wishes go to you all, and my highest hopes in regard to your future, and my deep gratitude for all your many kindnesses to us both will remain with me one of the most treasured memories of my life in India.

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**FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM THE BOMBAY CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE.**

His Excellency the Viceroy in reply to the Farewell Address presented by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on Friday, the 17th April 1936, made the following speech :—

*Gentlemen,—I appreciate very deeply the generous language you have used in your address and now that the time has come for me to say farewell to you I confess that I hardly know what words to use with which to express my feelings. In this case, however, the simplest phrases are the best and I would ask you to accept my warmest thanks for your kind appreciation of my services.*

It is clear that you wish to send me away from India happy in the knowledge that my term of office has met with the approval of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and in this you have succeeded to the full. I have always realized the close connection between the contentment of a country and the prosperity of her trade and commerce, and the harmonious atmosphere now prevailing, to which you, Sir, referred in your address, is, I think I can claim, not one of the smallest factors in the improvement of trade conditions today as compared with when I took over office five years ago, and even though that improvement may only at present be discerned as a small gleam of light in the economic sky, I am convinced that that gleam is steadily gaining in strength from day to day. India's

*Farewell Address from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.*

credit stands high, and of that fact I am proud for although there are contributing reasons for it, one very large element has been the restoration of law and order throughout the country which has been the constant pre-occupation of my Government and myself during my entire regime.

I was particularly pleased to hear your expression of thanks to the Members of my Government for the courtesy and consideration which they have shown to the representatives of your Chamber when you have had occasion to address Government in matters of public or commercial interest, and I would express my full confidence that that courtesy and consideration which you have received in the past will continue to be extended to you in equal measure in the future.

I am indeed glad to think that financial conditions have so improved as to permit of the initiation of a campaign for the amelioration of the condition of the agricultural masses and I have not the slightest doubt that my successor will continue the good work that has been started and it is to be hoped that improving conditions will result in greater resources being placed at his disposal for the purpose.

Your tribute to the manifold activities of Her Excellency has touched me deeply. She has taken the keenest interest in the welfare of the women and children of this country, and she will, I know, sincerely value your kindly references to her untiring efforts.

The time has now come to say Good-Bye—and I do so with a heavy heart for the links that have so long and so closely bound me to India for many long years have now to be broken, but I trust, Gentlemen, that you will not forget me and in bidding you farewell I wish you all a bright and prosperous future.

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FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM THE MUSLIM COMMITTEE  
OF BOMBAY.

His Excellency the Viceroy in reply to the Farewell Address 17th April presented by the Muslim Committee of Bombay on Friday, the 1936.  
17th April 1936, made the following speech :—

*Gentlemen,—I am very glad to have this opportunity of meeting once again the members of the Muslim Committee before I leave India, and I am most grateful to them and to you, Sir, for your kind thought in presenting me with this farewell address and for your good wishes to Her Excellency and myself.*

You have been good enough to refer in a very appreciative manner to such services as I have been able to render to this great country of India, and in particular during the last five years. It has been, as you say, a critical and often an anxious time, but I am particularly glad to hear that you consider that I have done my part not only in giving India a new Constitution but also in creating that atmosphere of peace and tranquillity which is so essentially necessary for the success of that Constitution. But the credit does not belong to me alone and I take this opportunity of thanking the Muslim Community for the support they have given me. Throughout this period the whole trend of responsible opinion in the Community has been against any form of unconstitutional agitation and while pressing their claims and taking steps to safeguard their interests, they have never lost sight of the great object which we all have in view—the political advancement of a united India.

You, Sir, referred in your address to the widespread demonstrations of public feeling which were evinced on the joyful occasion of His late Majesty's Silver Jubilee and again on the sad day of His late Majesty's death. Those demonstrations clearly showed to the world at large that India is, as you have rightly claimed, second to none

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*Farewell Address from the Bombay Municipal Corporation.*

in her regard and affection for the Ruler of our great Empire. Those demonstrations further showed that whatever talk there may be in certain quarters of independence and separation, India, as a whole, realises to the full the value of the union of our two races and of partnership within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

You were good enough to say that the names of Her Excellency and myself were near and dear to India. India will always be very near and dear to us, and it is perhaps unnecessary for me to say that we will continue to serve her to the best of our ability in the years that lie before us as we have since the day we first landed in Bombay some twenty-three years ago.

Gentlemen, in conclusion, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your charming address. We shall carry away with us affectionate recollections of the good wishes and of the kindly tribute extended to us by the Muslim Committee in Bombay.

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#### FAREWELL ADDRESS FROM THE BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

8th April  
1936.

His Excellency the Viceroy in reply to the Farewell Address presented by the Bombay Municipal Corporation on Saturday, the 18th April 1936, made the following speech :—

*Mr. Mayor, Members of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Bombay,—*In thanking you, Sir, most gratefully for the very generous expressions you have conveyed to us in the address which you have just read, I am sure you will understand if my reply is very brief, for (and I speak for my wife just as much as for myself) our hearts are very full, our feelings are very deep this morning. We are leaving here in India so many friends, so many interests and associations, so many thoughts of happy days spent

*Farewell Address from the Bombay Municipal Corporation.*

among you all during the 16 years we have lived in this wonderful country.

After listening to your charming and most flattering references to our Empire service, my wife and I are deeply touched, and our minds go back to the morning we first stood here 23 years ago and began our association with this Presidency which extended over six very happy years.

You are perfectly right when you say, Sir, that it was here we passed through our apprenticeship of Empire service, and we are proud to feel that now, at the moment of our giving up our official life in India, you, who gave us our early training, have been good enough to say to us " well done, good and faithful servants " before we go.

I know well that my regime has not escaped considerable criticism and controversy, but that is I fear inevitable in the life of anyone who is placed in a position of great responsibility. But this, as I look back over the years, I can truly, sincerely say, that I have worked honestly and to the best of my powers for friendship and good-will between our two races. I have laboured to improve conditions of life among all classes of the millions of our people ; I have striven without ceasing to help India forward to her goal of completely responsible Government.

I am grateful indeed to you, Sir, this morning, for making no reference to the various problems that beset you and your Councillors in matters of Municipal administration, and sympathise with you in your anxieties during these most difficult years of depression, which I know have affected the economic and financial position of this great commercial and industrial city. But if I still know anything of the citizens of Bombay with whom I was so closely associated during the four years of the Great War, I am sure that the courage, enterprise and resource-

*Farewell Address from the Bombay Municipal Corporation.*

fulness which you have shown in the past will be there in the future, and I am as optimistic as ever that before long your great city will once again be on the high road to increasing prosperity and progress. And now the time has come to say good-bye to what has been to both of us a wonderful period of service to the people of this country. If it be true that as a rule there is not much gratitude for services rendered, that certainly has not been so in our case, for we have been overwhelmed with evidence of regret at our departure and appreciation of our work for which we are both truly and sincerely grateful.

And before I set sail from the shores of India to-day, may I leave with you the same watchword which I brought with me when I first landed here long years ago to become Governor of the Bombay Presidency. It is the one word co-operation. Co-operation between our two races which has brought so many benefits to this country in the past and will bring many more in the future, if we avoid those feelings of suspicion and distrust and believe in each other's sincerity ; co-operation with a common purpose and with mutual endeavour to make this great country, with all its wonderful history and tradition, powerful and prosperous in this modern world, a full partner in shaping the destinies of the British Empire.

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